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newspaper



HEAD'S ICY BLAST AT SCHOOLS SHUTDOWN

WHAT'S ON & WATCH
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Yourkenttv reports on how the county was affected by the big freeze. Search 'frozen'

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Picture DON GRAY

ARCHBISHOP DROPS BY

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Rowan Williams, made a special appearance at the Blessing Of The Waters in Margate on Sunday morning.

He endured the chilliest of coastal winds to join members of all faiths for the annual ceremony, held on the beach near the Nayland Rock shelter.

The leader of the Church of England (above, second from left) was in good spirits despite the bitter conditions and chatted happily with other faith leaders. Prayers and blessings were made on the beach after a procession through Westbrook which involved local dignitaries and councillors.

After church leaders had thrown a gold cross into the sea, tradition dictates that a young boy is sent in to retrieve it and this year was no different as a youngster braved the icy waters as hundreds of people looked on, perhaps just a little relieved that the job wasn't theirs...

■ BY TOM BETTS

A RAMSGATE head-teacher has questioned why so many isle schools closed last week during the wintry weather.

Compared with other parts of Kent, snowfall in Thanet was relatively light, but still dozens of schools closed, giving pupils and staff days off.

With GCSE and A-level examinations taking place soon, Ian Johnson, the principal at the Marlowe Academy, says the number of isle schools that closed gave cause for concern.

The majority of secondary schools remained shut as snow fell, but the Marlowe Academy stayed open for pupils who could attend.

Scores of primary schools were also shut.

Mr Johnson said: "I'm a little surprised so many schools closed. We used to get lots more snow than this back in Oxfordshire, where I was a head-teacher.

"The standard practice, unless all the roads were closed, was to delay decisions until the school day had started and you knew how many staff had managed to get in."

Mr Johnson, who is known for his strong views, such as stating a liking for league tables and introducing the nine-to-five school day, said: "We've got students taking exams next week, so it is important to maintain their preparations. It is also important for youngsters to understand that you don't shut up shop just because of a bit of snow."

Students had only been back at school a week prior to the snowfall, following the Christmas holidays.

Mr Johnson said: "On Friday the roads were

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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TOP TV CLIPS



1 Solicitor Donna Payne is campaigning against domestic abuse in Deal. **Search 'abuse'**



2 Some beautiful snowy scenes taken across Folkestone and Hythe. **Search 'snow'**



3 More than 100 swimmers go for a Boxing Day dip in Dover harbour. **Search 'Boxing'**

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Fury as bins fill up after Christmas

■ BY TOM BETTS

THANET council's waste and recycling schedule has been blasted as residents struggle to cope with their festive rubbish.

The backlog was caused by the suspension of collections last week due to the icy weather and the break between Christmas and New Year.

Some 20,000 homes are thought to have been affected by the change to collections, which have now returned to their normal schedule.

Council bosses say that by Friday things should be clear again, but some residents say they have not had their rubbish taken away since before Christmas because collections were cut over the festive period.

One enraged Minnis Bay resident told Yourthanet: "I'm putting out my bin tonight [Monday, January 11] in the hope there's a collection tomorrow. This includes my rubbish from before Christmas!"

"It's typical Thanet council – they only do what suits them, not what suits the people that they're meant and paid to serve."

Treacherous

Thanet council made the decision to cancel collections on Thursday and Friday last week when the cold weather was at its worst on the isle.

On Thursday morning collections were called off after tests.

Teams of workers were out in smaller trucks but could only do so much with the resources they had at their disposal.

A council spokeswoman said: "It was entirely the right decision."

"Although the main roads were passable by Friday, the majority of side roads and nearly all the pave-

ments were treacherous. Conditions didn't dramatically improve until Sunday.

"The council took a difficult but necessary decision and got staff out again as soon as it was possible."

"We were not alone in this as the vast majority of councils across Kent also suspended waste collections at points during last week."

The unusual step of diverting staff from other council services was taken to assist with the work, although no temporary staff were taken on.

The spokeswoman said the fact that some homes might not have had rubbish collections in three weeks was a source of regret.

Regrets

She said: "This is something the council obviously regrets. However, there is no way that we could have foreseen the severe weather conditions that affected our collections last week."

"Until the end of Wednesday, we were firmly on track to catch up with the Christmas backlog. Indeed, 47,000 homes are up to date with their collections, out of 67,000."

One binman was injured slipping on ice and had to be taken to hospital, but no waste vehicles were reported to have been involved in accidents.

Clive Hart, the Labour leader on Thanet council, said: "I think it was a mistake on the council's part to not collect on the Thursday between Christmas and New Year when it was a normal working day."

"If they had done that collection on New Year's Eve, then we wouldn't have as much to clear."

The council says that black bags were cleared from about 2,000 homes on Friday, with 70 tonnes of rubbish taken away in total.

yourthanet
NEWS IN BRIEF

Dog walkers possible witnesses to incident

POLICE are appealing for a couple walking a dog on the beach near Margate Winter Gardens on Monday, December 28, to contact them as they may have seen a possible assault.

The incident involved a man and a woman by the water's edge near the Winter Gardens between 11pm and 11.40pm.

The couple could have been in the water and may have been arguing.

Witnesses can phone PC Sean Corrigan on 0845 1135000 or 01843 231055, quoting reference 21682/09. • A 25-year-old man has been arrested in connection with an assault.

Courses could put you on a new career path

A FREE open day highlighting courses is being held in Newington today (Wednesday) for adults in the Newington, Eastcliff and Northwood wards.

Among the courses on offer are computers for absolute beginners, gardening skills, English, maths and cake-decorating.

You can also take a first step towards a career in early-years childcare and education.

Pop in to the Newington Community Centre in Princess Margaret Avenue between 11am and 2pm on Wednesday, January 13, for more information.

Go to ball if you want to join carnival court

THE date of the Miss Ramsgate selection ball has been set.

It will be held at Oddfellows Hall in Ramsgate on Friday, March 5, from 7pm.

Entrants can be between 14 and 21 years of age, but to apply you need to email Sabra on sabrabrooker@hotmail.com.

She said: "Over the last few years we have had fewer girls apply. Now 2010 is here, the new carnival committee is ready to put on a bigger and better carnival"

Phone Christopher Hobbs-East on 07871642667 for more details.

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KOS
 media

Birds seeking warmth end up on a hot plate

■ BY TOM BETTS

GAMEBIRDS fleeing bitter weather in continental Europe have been reaching east Kent only to be shot and served up at an Indian restaurant in Margate.

Although Thanet has been experiencing its harshest winter for years, conditions on the Continent have been every bit as harsh, sparking unusually large numbers of woodcock to move west to the UK.

Dev Biswal, executive chef at The Indian Princess, is taking advantage of the arrival and has been preparing the distinctive bird in his special style.

Last year, Mr Biswal served up a menu of exotic meats, including snake, zebra and even crocodile for his customers, but it is the rich flavour of the woodcock that is tantalising the taste buds this time round.

He said: "The woodcock is prized in Europe, Asia and North America for its delectable flesh. "The European woodcock ranges from northern Spain and Britain to Siberia and Japan, and it is considered the king of gamebirds.

"Though scarce, woodcock is a gourmet's delight because of its rich, tangy flavour, gained through a diet that includes aromatic herbs and berries. They have intensely flavoured, lean, dark meat.

"There has been a surge in numbers of woodcock in the Deal area and a local game dealer had a record catch – in fact he got 75 birds in just a few hours.



DELICACY: A nesting woodcock camouflaged against leaves, while (right) the marinated meat is served up with woodcock pate at The Indian Princess, Margate



"I had never cooked woodcock before. My initial reluctance turned to curiosity and I ended up buying 30 birds.

"It turned out to be pure magic. The bird has a unique rich taste and a 'melt in the mouth' texture."

Mr Biswal says the flavour of the birds has an affinity with allspice, capers, cayenne, lemons, nutmeg, port, truffles and white wine.

He marinates them in allspice, peppers, ginger and nutmeg before slow-grilling them – they then hit the plate with a woodcock and

parsley pate and a creamy raita of shallots and coriander.

Sika deer, a highly-prized meat dubbed the 'Champagne of venison', is also proving a hit.

"While the flavour of the meat is related to the animal's diet, it is described as having a full, deep taste akin to a deeply woody yet berry-like red wine. It features a texture that is supple and tender," said Mr Biswal.

The Indian Princess restaurant serves gourmet Indian cuisine and is rated the number one restaurant in Kent on www.tripadvisor.com.

Town council: 'put more focus on our tourism'

RAMSGATE Town Council has issued its response to the district council's Core Strategy document.

The draft response to the Shaping Our Future document has been circulated to interested parties.

Although the body says it supports much of the strategy, councillors say they doubt that Kent International Airport, the port and the wind farm will provide as much economic opportunity as predicted.

The town council sees more possibility for economic stimulus in tourism.

The document says: "Contributions to economic growth are more likely to be achieved through an increase in the number of visitors and new, economically active, residents – including commuters attracted by high-speed trains."

Pollution

The airport comes in for strong words. A statement about pollution and noise says: "The council is concerned that, if not properly controlled, pollution and disturbance from the expansion of Kent International Airport could prejudice the development of Ramsgate as a residential and visitor location."

Councillors say a paragraph calling for an independent monitoring programme should be added.

A consultation on the document is still ongoing, but other areas criticised by the town council include conservation.

It says: "It does not significantly deal with conservation issues and proposes no specific policies for them. Ramsgate Town Council suggests that this needs to be addressed in the next draft."

Sections to get RTC backing include the proposed redevelopment of Jackey Bakers sports ground and the plan to improve community facilities at Newington.

'Bit of snow no reason to shut schools'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
pretty clear, but still a lot of schools were closed. You must expect your staff to make a reasonable effort to get in.

"We've just had a two-week holiday and I'd be tearing my hair out if I were a parent and the buses were running and the roads were clear and my youngsters could go in but the school was closed."

Classes at the Marlowe Academy went ahead until early afternoon, although the numbers of students attending was reduced by more than half.

Students who did make it in were rewarded with free lunch.

Mr Johnson (above) said: "Our numbers were down, there is no question about that, but we had a great atmosphere and the kids seemed to enjoy being here.

"They could go out during break time and throw snowballs if they wanted and as we closed early they could still get out and play in it after school."



Youth unemployment on isle is 'among the highest in country'

ONE in three young people are out of work on the isle, according to new statistics.

Some 23 per cent of people aged between 18 and 24 are out of work, which means the area has one of the highest rates of youth unemployment in the country.

The information comes from the Conservative Party, via the Office of National Statistics.

The isle is in the top 20 spots for England and Wales, with 1,315 people from that age group claiming Jobseekers' Allowance.

About 500 are claiming Incapacity Benefit, with a total of 2,375 people claiming out-of-work benefits.

Before the recession that number was about 1,590, meaning there has been a 49 per cent rise.

The isle has about 10,200 people in the 18-24 age group.

The area with the highest youth unemployment rate is Blaenau Gwent in Wales, with 29 per cent of its young people out of work.

Shadow Work and Pensions Secre-

tary Theresa May said: "Britain cannot go on like this. It seems the true scale of the youth unemployment crisis is only starting to emerge.

"It is startling that in some pockets of the country the number of young people on benefits has doubled. Labour need to stop sleepwalking through this unemployment crisis or we risk losing a generation of young people."

Thanet South Labour MP Dr Steve Ladyman said: "Tackling youth unemployment during the recession has been among the Government's highest priorities.

"That is why we have guaranteed a job or training place to every young person out of work for more than six months and pumped money into JobCentrePlus and into the economy.

"For the Tories to criticise us on this is simply preposterous – they opposed the investments we have made and if we had followed their advice youth unemployment would be double what it is today."



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Good sports who are right on track

TEN young people from Thanet are on course to pass Sport 4 NRG's first Community Sports Leadership Award.

After completing 40 hours of practical learning provided by the council's Sport Matters team, the group then went on to pass their emergency first-aid training.

They now need to complete 10 hours of volunteering in the community to receive their final qualification, which could help them get back on track for further education or employment.

James Gregory from the Sport 4 NRG project said: "To see these lads grow in confidence over the course of this qualification has been great."

If you can offer these motivated individuals either further training or employment, please call 01843 577728 or email james.gregory@thanet.gov.uk.

Work on positives to change your life

THE Marlowe Innovation Centre in Ramsgate is now hosting Achieve Your Goals workshops

The sessions are run by Clive Graham, a psychologist focusing on developing positive change.

They take place on January 19 and 29, February 3 and 17 and March 3 and 17.

Leza Riley, the centre's facilities manager, said: "The workshops are aimed at giving people the tools to enable the positive change in your personal life, to implement change in your business."

If you would like to book a place, which costs £20 each, including lunch, phone Clive or Leza on 01843 598624, or email lezariley@marloweinnovationcentre.co.uk.

MPs in spat over 'nonsense' claims about air-sea rescue

THE isle's two MPs are at loggerheads over the relocation of Maritime and Coastguard Agency services from Manston's Kent International Airport.

The service moved from KIA to Coventry at the end of last year.

The row kicked off when Laura Sandys, the Conservative candidate who will challenge Dr Steve Ladyman for his seat at the next election, said she feared lives were at risk if the air-sea rescue service was moved. She was joined in the argument by Julian Brazier, the Tory MP for Canterbury and Whitstable.

However, the air-sea rescue service was in fact moved to RAF Wattisham in Suffolk years ago, which Dr Ladyman was quick to point out in a letter to Yourthanet.

He said the Tory's claims were "complete nonsense" and that the helicopters had long since left Manston, while a fixed-wing aircraft

■ BY TOM BETTS

remained at KIA and would soon be replaced with a faster model.

He said claims the fixed-wing service had a role in air-sea rescue were wrong and that it only helped out in very special circumstances.

That has riled Roger Gale, MP for Thanet North and a political ally of Ms Sandys.

Mr Gale said: "[He] must have thrown in the towel. Only an MP resigned to departure would fail to seek to defend Thanet's maritime safety."

"My colleagues are right to raise the issue of the location of the fixed-wing reconnaissance aircraft – just as Jonathan Aitken and I sought to resist the transfer of the search-and-rescue helicopters from Manston to RAF Wattisham."

"To date, no lives have been lost as a result of the transfer of the Sea King helicopter, but over the Christmas period a yacht in trouble was serviced, in addition to the Margate lifeboat, by

an aircraft from Belgium rather than one from Britain. I still fear that a day may come when 'just in time' proves to be 'just too late'.

"The Straits of Dover are the busiest sea lane in the world. Air cover needs to be enhanced, not diminished, and I share the view to the effect that the removal of the fixed-wing aircraft represents a potential diminution of the facility."

Dr Ladyman quickly struck back with a response to Mr Gale's comments.

He said: "Mr Gale is wrong on so many counts, the key one being the suggestion that moving the base of the fixed-wing service from Manston to the Midlands has safety implications. It has none whatsoever."

"The second error is his failure to recognise that Laura Sandys and Julian Brazier clearly did not understand the nature of the service this plane provided and obviously did not discuss it with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency or they would not have made the claims that they did."

Picture THANET COAST PROJECT



GRIM WAVE OF DEATH

It was not just humans who found the extreme weather debilitating last week.

The isle's wildlife also had to take the brunt of the cold, while the local crab population was hit by the icy conditions.

Hundreds of the crustaceans were washed up on beaches around Westbrook and Westgate.

The dead bodies formed an eerie carpet of spiky limbs and craggy shells as the shoreline resembled something from a horror movie.

The velvet swimming crabs, also known as devil crabs, were hit last year in a similar fashion when cold weather took its toll.

Most crab bodies washed up in Westbrook Bay, but some were found further along in St Mildred's Bay and also as far along as Walpole Bay, Cliftonville, with gulls quickly moving in for a feeding bonanza.

Tony Sykes, a volunteer coastal warden in the area, said: "They were no doubt suffering with crabby hypothermia – there were literally thousands in large heaps on the beach."

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GIRL POWER WINS OUT: Six nations were represented by the team of women who walked to the South Pole

Cold walk to the end of the earth

AN ISLE explorer has led a group of six women to the South Pole to highlight the achievements of females across the world.

Travel writer Felicity Aston, from Birchington, trekked 495 nautical miles over 40 days with her team, which was made up of women from six Commonwealth countries.

As well as promoting the accomplishments of women worldwide, the trip – which was sponsored by Russian internet security company Kaspersky Lab – marked the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Commonwealth.

Stephanie Solomonides, 25, from Cyprus, and 25-year-old Dk Najibah Eradah binti P.A.M Al-Sufri Pg M-L Kahar, from Brunei Darussalam, were the first two people from their countries to ever make the mammoth trip. And Reena Kaushal Dharmshaktu, 38, from India, Kylie Wakelin, from New Zealand, and Sophia Pang, 36, from Singapore, were the first women from their countries to do the same.

Also making up the team was Helen Turton, who flew the British flag alongside Ms Aston.

Another member of the team was unable to complete the trip.

Speaking on satellite phone from the South Pole, Ms Aston told KOS Media about the “unbelievable” moment she and her team reached the South Pole.

“As I led the women in, I looked back at them and even though they had their masks on I knew every one of them was weeping,” she said. “We had an arm signal that we used to tell each other we were OK throughout the trip, so we all did this as we skied down.”

“This expedition was all about showing the world what women from all different backgrounds can do.”

Since completing the arduous trek, the 31-

■ BY MARIJKE COX

year-old has been staying in a hotel rather than a tent but admits missing her comrades, whom she hasn’t seen for a few days.

“We were in each others’ pockets for almost 40 days. We saw each other tired, scared, hungry, petrified,” she said.

“I know these women so well now – maybe even better than some of my best friends.

“You build up friendships in a weird way. You have to learn to depend on each other very quickly as everyone is so vulnerable.”

The adventure started for Ms Aston two years ago when she first invited applications for her expedition.

The avid adventurer already had ten years of experience under her belt, having completed a number of treks, including a 360-mile endurance race across the Canadian Arctic.

She also led the first British women’s crossing of the Greenland ice-sheet.

Some 800 women from Commonwealth countries applied to take part in her Antarctic expedition and she made a short-list of 16 women.

This was cut down to the final group following a two-week training and selection camp in February 2009, funded by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.

“I looked for people who got on well together,” she said. “There was a huge element of trust in what we were going to do, so that was vital.”

Ms Aston said there were small, precious moments that meant so much to the team during the expedition.

“It was these small things that were the real highs for me,” she said.

“When we started skiing one day there were halos around the sun and it was a bit windy and atmospheric and I looked back at the women and thought ‘Wow!’.

“These were novices who had never done anything like this before and yet they looked so professional – I was so proud.”

But with the highs came the lows. “A few days into the trip there was a terrible blizzard and our tents got ripped in half.

“I thought that was it, the expedition was over. But with some strong twine and other bits and bobs we managed to fix them and they lasted us the whole time.”

But Ms Aston said the reasons behind the trip were particularly important and the team trekked on.

“Even though we are in the 21st century a lot of women around the world are not able to make their own choices.

“Hopefully this will change that and show people what women can do when they have the chance.”

yourthanet

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wine and dine your true love for charity

A ROMANTIC St Valentine’s dinner and disco is to be held by the Mayor of Ramsgate’s Charity Committee.

Couples will be able to have a wonderful evening out knowing they will be helping to benefit Wheels For Ralph, Porchlight and Friends For Mental Health, the Mayor’s charities.

The ticket-only meal at Ramsgate’s Oak Hotel will be hosted by the Mayor and Mayor-ess of Ramsgate, Cllrs David and Elizabeth Green, on Saturday, February 13, from 7pm.

A1 Disco will be supplying the music, so romantic couples will be dancing and raising money for good causes at the same time.

The event costs £30 per person and tickets are available on 01843 591142; or email mayor.ramsgate@btoopenworld.com by Friday, February 5, as you can’t buy tickets on the door.

Put your best foot forward

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to get people walking more.

The Walk to Win scheme is being funded by the NHS and run by the county council’s Explore Kent countryside access service.

You can enter a free prize draw for £250 worth of free trainers or walking equipment for your family by signing up to learn more about walking in Kent from Explore Kent.

The monthly draw starts this month and finishes in March.

Enter by calling 08458 247600 or visiting www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent.

Third year of Jersey trips

FLIGHTS to Jersey will depart from Kent International Airport again this year.

Jersey-based C I Travel Group is operating direct flights for the third year running.

The service will operate every Saturday between May 15 and September 11.

It will be operated by Air Southwest, using a 50-seat Dash 8 aircraft; the route will be sold by Airways Holidays, Discover Jersey and Channel Islands Travel Service.

Holidays and flights for both services can be booked through local travel agents, online at www.discoverjersey.com, or by telephone on 0844 415 6653.

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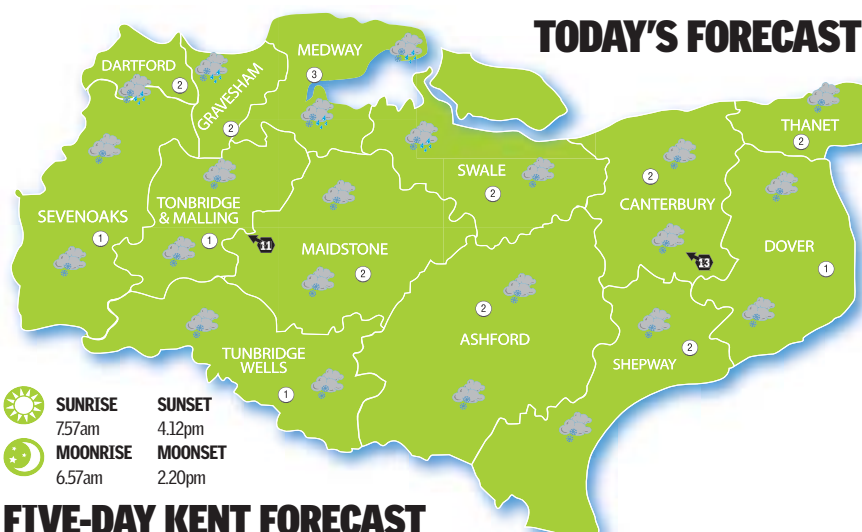
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WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	1:36pm	5.7m
	Sunday	2:08pm	5.8m
Dover	Saturday	11:46am	6.3m
	Sunday	12:19pm	6.3m
Dungeness	Saturday	11:41am	7.1m
	Sunday	12:15pm	7.2m
Ramsgate	Saturday	12:16pm	4.8m
	Sunday	12:49pm	4.8m
Sheerness	Saturday	1:26pm	5.5m
	Sunday	1:58pm	5.5m
Whitstable	Saturday	1:27pm	5.0m
	Sunday	1:58pm	5.1m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	0°C	Madrid	-1°C
Athens	15°C	New York	-4°C
Barcelona	7°C	Paris	1°C
Beijing	-6°C	Rome	8°C
Bombay	31°C	Sydney	26°C
Cape Town	24°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	1°C	Tokyo	5°C
Gibraltar	16°C	Vancouver	10°C
Hong Kong	14°C	Warsaw	-3°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	15°C

Hospital feels force of weather injuries

HEALTH chiefs say the snowy weather has led to emergency care reaching breaking point at the QEQM Hospital in Margate.

In the first five days of the year the accident and emergency department at the hospital saw 940 cases, a rise of more than 40 per cent.

The plunging temperatures and icy roads and footpaths have put increased demand on both the region's main and community hospitals. The ambulance service also declared the situation a major incident and is prioritising life-threatening calls.

Andrew Scott-Clark from NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent Trust said people should make responsible choices before going to an emergency department.

Emergency

He said: "I would encourage people to consider accessing other health services such as their GP, local walk-in centre or NHS Direct rather than calling 999 or going to accident and emergency. Accident and emergency should be saved for critical or life-threatening situations."

"People who inappropriately use the ambulance services and accident and emergency departments for non-emergencies are diverting resources away from those who may be in desperate need of care and urgent attention."

The trust has suggested which services people should attend for different conditions:

- Accident and emergency or 999 for critical or life-threatening situations.
- NHS walk-in centre or Minor Injury Unit for minor illnesses or injuries, without an appointment.
- GP for medical advice, examinations and prescriptions for illnesses you can't shake off.
- Pharmacists for advice on common winter illnesses and the best medicines to treat them.

If you have immediate health concerns, call NHS Direct on 0845 46 47 or visit www.nhs.uk.

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	1°C	2°C	3°C	5°C	5°C	Gravesend	2°C	2°C	3°C	5°C	6°C
Canterbury	1°C	2°C	4°C	5°C	5°C	Maidstone	2°C	2°C	3°C	5°C	5°C
Chatham	3°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	5°C	Ramsgate	1°C	2°C	4°C	5°C	5°C
Dartford	2°C	2°C	3°C	5°C	6°C	Rochester	3°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	5°C
Dover	1°C	1°C	3°C	4°C	4°C	Sevenoaks	0°C	1°C	2°C	3°C	4°C
Faversham	3°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	5°C	Sittingbourne	3°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	5°C
Folkestone	1°C	1°C	3°C	4°C	4°C	Tonbridge	1°C	1°C	3°C	5°C	5°C
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QUESTION & ANSWER

ANGUS FRASER



Q Why did you want to get involved with The Caldecott Foundation?

A My involvement began five years ago after a casual conversation with a friend who has been a long-serving Caldecott trustee. Caldecott had just built a new school on their Smeeth site and were looking for school governors. I have always been interested in education, both personally and professionally – I was chairman for almost seven years of the Alpha Plus education group in London – so I was delighted to help.

Q How has it changed in recent years?

A A great deal. In the mid-90s, an appeal was launched for major projects, including building a new school and improving the houses. This raised £8 million. The Duke of Edinburgh visited us three years ago to mark its successful conclusion. But it's not just about capital investment. We have also made great strides in developing our range of services and in enhancing the quality of integrated care we provide for some of Britain's most neglected and vulnerable children, so as to help them rebuild their lives.

Q You have extensive experience in business. How does this help in your work with the Caldecott Foundation?

A Most of our income is from local authority social services departments, who place children in our care. They expect us to manage our

affairs in a professional and businesslike way. We don't receive Government funding or grants, so we need to work hard to provide the best care, therapy, education and fostering service we can within the resources available. We have to be competitive to earn the opportunity to do that. What's more, we need to set money aside to invest in facilities for the future, so we look after our money very carefully and are very appreciative of the donations and legacies we receive from our supporters. These help pay for life-enriching extras for the children, such as holidays, outings and sports equipment.

Q Are the services the foundation offers under more pressure at the moment? What are the main problems?

A With public finances under scrutiny, it is an economically difficult time for our local authority clients and we will need more than ever to demonstrate high quality and value for money. Running a care organisation like Caldecott is inevitably costly, not least because of our relatively high staff-to-child ratio.

Q The foundation is almost 100 years old – how do you see its future?

A We're looking forward to our centenary in 2011, but it is a sobering thought that child cruelty and neglect cases such as Baby P show there is as great a need as ever for the sort of care and protection we provide. Our role is to ensure that we continue to develop our services

to meet the needs of children and young people and to strive continuously to improve outcomes for those in our care.

Q Why do you think it has managed to maintain this success over all those years?

A Because we care, and because we're always thinking about how we can best help the children who are placed with us. Our services are constantly evolving and we now provide a complete package, from initial assessment through to residential care in one of our seven houses, therapy, schooling, fostering and, finally, supporting them into the outside world.

Q How can people get involved to help the foundation?

A There are lots of ways to help the Caldecott Foundation by giving a little time or money. There are volunteering opportunities and a regular programme of events. We enjoy working with companies, and there are plenty of ways to make donations. Visit our website at www.thecaldecottfoundation.co.uk and click on 'How You Can Help'.

Q Who inspired you when you were younger? How did they affect your life?

A I was fortunate to work early on in different enterprises for a succession of bosses whom I liked and admired and from whom I learned a great deal. The one common feature was that they were all extremely demanding!

Q & A

The new chair of trustees at The Caldecott Foundation, which cares for up to 50 children who have suffered cruelty and neglect, talks to **Ed Hill** about the future of the foundation and its achievements so far

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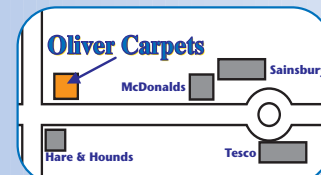
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BY MARIJKE COX

A GRIEVING father whose son was killed by a speeding driver has spoken of his heartache for a hard-hitting TV advert.

Michael Bollom, from Bearsted near Maidstone, hopes the candid account of his son James' death will bring home to viewers the harsh reality that speeding can kill.

He said: "This isn't just coming from an actor on TV - this is coming from a parent who lost his child."

In the advert, which will be shown on ITV Meridian, the 50-year-old recalls James's death in December, 2005.

The 16-year-old was killed a month short of his 17th birthday when the car he was travelling in lost control in the village of Wateringbury.

He died instantly after taking the full force of the crash.

The driver was prosecuted and jailed for dangerous driving.

The life-changing consequences of the crash took a further tragic twist when James's grief-stricken mother, Samantha, took her own life three months later.

Mr Bollom believes by opening up about the tragedy on television, people will take notice and think twice about their speed while on the road.

"I want to get the message across to some of these young drivers that speeding can have tragic consequences," he said.

"If I can prevent just one death, prevent one family from going through the pain we suffered, then it will be worthwhile.

"By me doing it rather than an actor it makes it all the more real for people and therefore will have more of an impact."

Mr Bollom, who is director of a manufacturing company in Sittingbourne, was

Devastated dad's TV plea to stop speeding drivers



MESSAGE: Michael Bollom hopes that his moving account of his son's death will make drivers think and (right) with James at a wedding before the tragedy which claimed his life. He has also had a book about his experiences published.

approached by Kent Police to talk about his grief as part of a campaign to clamp down on speeding.

The 30-second advert was filmed at Maidstone Studios by Southside Television and will be shown on ITV from this Friday to mid-February.

"It was daunting doing the advert and

brought up a lot of sad memories," said Mr Bollom. But if helps prevent people speeding then it's been worth it."

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beautridge paid tribute to Mr Bollom for taking part in the campaign.

"We are grateful to Michael for having the courage to do this and to help us get the

message through that speed kills," he said.

Director of Southside Television, Martin Smith, also praised him.

He said: "He was brave to do something like this as it obviously brought memories flooding back, but he is determined James should not have died in vain."

As part of his own personal plight, Mr Bollom has also written a book entitled *Losing James: A Father Cries Too*.

It gives a poignant account of his grief and how he dealt with the tragedy that tore his world apart. He hopes it will help other families cope with bereavement.

He said: "It's going very well - Waterstone's has taken it on in two of their branches in Maidstone. I've had emails from people saying it has helped them with their own grief."

Money from sales is donated to Holding On, Letting Go, which is part of Demelza House, a children's hospice based near Sittingbourne.

The charity aims to help families cope with bereavement.

Mr Bollom said: "We have already raised £2,000. Some of the people who have read my book have also given extra donations to the charity."

• To buy *Losing James: A Father Cries Too*, email mike@boundbiographies.com or go to Waterstone's in Maidstone.

'Designer dogs' dumped by cash-strapped owners

A RISE in demand for so-called 'designer breeds' has sparked fears even more dogs will be dumped in the coming weeks and months.

The Dogs Trust says cross-breeds like the labradoodle face an increased risk of being abandoned due to their newfound popularity as short-term fashion accessories rather than lifetime companions.

Staff at the charity's rehoming centre in Canterbury are currently caring for three such animals and are concerned they may receive more in the weeks and months to come.

Manager Lizzie Reffell said: "We're seeing more designer breeds coming through the kennel system and it's quite unusual.

"These dogs are new on the scene

and are quite expensive, which may be why they are becoming increasingly popular as fashion accessories.

"But still people do not seem able to cope with them or keep them long-term. Many don't seem to understand the dogs they buy will need to be looked after for the next ten years.

"We took in quite a few labradoodles last year but the problem has become more apparent now we have three cross-breeds at once. Fortunately because they are so popular they tend to be rehomed fairly quickly."

Three dogs that are currently being cared for by Dogs Trust Canterbury are Ruby the puggle (pug-beagle), Benson the boxador (boxer-labrador) and Charlie the



GIVE A DOG A HOME: (from left) Puggle Ruby, boxador Benson and sprollie Charlie are all being cared for by the Dogs Trust Canterbury

sprollie (springer spaniel-collie).

Last year the BBC sparked a controversy when it dropped the annual Crufts dog show from its television schedule, citing concerns about the welfare of some of the pedigree canines on show.

However, Ms Reffell said there was no evidence to suggest cross-breeding caused any of the genetic defects uncovered by the broadcaster.

She added: "The dogs we've come across haven't had anything wrong

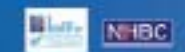
with them but as time goes on we will find out more and more about the effects of cross-breeding."

• Anyone who is interested in providing a home for one of the Dogs Trust's animals can phone 01227 792505.

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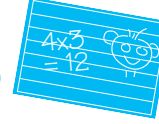
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BREAK TIME



BACK TO EARTH: Level 3 student Amy Belsey nears the end of her first abseil

Students go over edge for charity

PUBLIC-service students from Thanet College scaled new heights at a sponsored charity abseil at Revolution Climbing Centre.

There were a few nerves before going up and a few while coming down, but all of the 23 participants completed the challenge.

It was all in aid of the students' two chosen charities for 2009-10, the NSPCC and Thanet First Responders.

The students are still collecting sponsor money, but the current total is more than £200. This should double once all the money has been collected.

A college spokesman said: "Well done to all who took part, and thanks to everyone who sponsored them, and also a big thanks to Sam Johnson and his team at Revolution who gave up their time and facilities for the event."

Volunteers leading the way

■ BY TOM BETTS

PIONEERING work with volunteers has won St Peter's junior school a top national award.

It is the first primary school in the country to be awarded the Investing In Volunteers Quality Standard after a rigorous assessment of best-practice standards.

Head-teacher Sharon Irvine said she "could not praise the input of the small army of volunteers highly enough."

She said: "They bring an added dimension to the learning experience we offer our pupils. Their range of skills, knowledge and commitment is extraordinary."

The volunteers include scientists, musicians, artists, gardeners, motivational speakers plus helpers with reading, writing and maths.

"For many decades, schools have enlisted the help of enthusiastic mums who would lend a hand where needed," said Mrs Irvine.

"But this tradition has evolved to a much higher and more sophisticated level that plays a wider and increasingly important role in

education. Our volunteers give us an essential edge in the quality of education we offer.

"And while volunteers benefit our pupils from the broad base of their various skills, they also develop their own range of skills."

The Investing In Volunteers report said that St Peter's had "an innovative and creative approach".

A volunteer told the IIV team: "The volunteers can see the difference they make," while another felt "it is a community school... with an ethos of clubs and events that would not be possible without volunteers".

Mrs Irvine agreed. She said: "Our school is constantly raising its standards - for example, latest figures show we are in the top 28 per cent of all UK schools for the amount of progress our pupils make between year three and year six in English and maths.

"Our volunteers play an important role in supporting our drive to raise aspirations and

standards. They are also an active part of delivering our ever-expanding community activities and links, which are other essential areas that are developing at St Peter's."

Long-serving volunteer 80-year-old June Langley, from Broadstairs, had her work in education celebrated with a trophy in the Kent Awards For Volunteering Excellence.

For more than seven years, the former BT worker has been a volunteer reader at St Peter's, working with children, hearing them read and talking to them about their interests.

She also helped launch the St Peter's healthy-schools initiative and every day goes shopping for the best-value fruit which she prepares and displays for the fruit break shop.

The children assist June, which helps with their numeracy and communication skills.

Mrs Irvine, who nominated her for the award, said: "What began as a little job has now grown into a 15-hour weekly commitment from June, for which as a school we are extremely grateful as we would not have the funding to provide this service otherwise."

Golf lessons on the timetable

GOLF is becoming an increasingly popular school sport.

At the Ellington and Hereson School in Ramsgate, students are improving their skills with lunchtime and after-school sessions from the Playwell Golf Academy.

The students are shown all aspects of the sport by teaching professional Terry Russell.

He said: "I have been teaching beginners to the low-handicap players for four years. I get a great deal of satisfaction from watching pupils progress.

"Golf is a good form of exercise and introduces light-hearted, disciplined social integration."

Phil Pittock, extended schools development manager at Kent County Council, said: "I am pleased to support this project. It gives young people an opportunity to discover a new interest."

Playwell Academy is working with a number of schools around Thanet and east Kent and Mr Pittock added: "This means that lessons learned from the project are shared among students from all schools."



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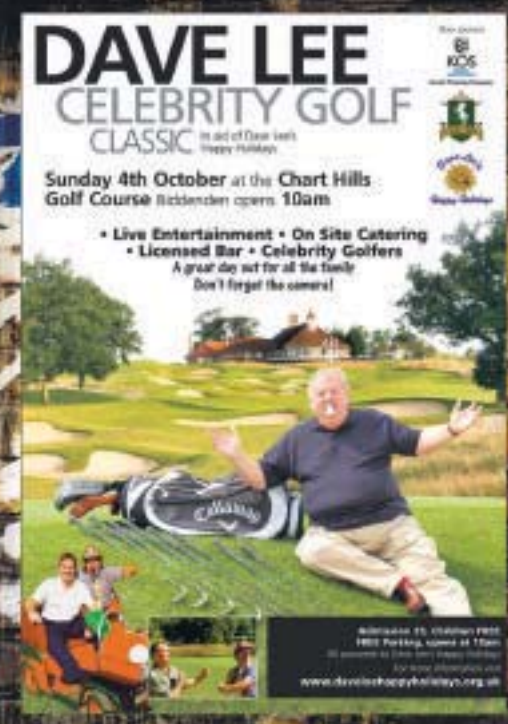
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Ben Inter a shot at big time with the 'Special One'



LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITY: Inter Milan boss Jose Mourinho (right) is waiting to see whether Kent's Ben Greenhalgh (pictured left with Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo) can win a professional contract with the current Serie A champions

FOOTBALL fanatic Ben Greenhalgh could swap Orpington for Italy after reaching the finals of a television competition to find the sport's next star.

The 17-year-old Darrick Wood School pupil is one of 10 youngsters battling it out for a contract with Serie A champions Inter Milan – currently managed by former Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho.

Ben's attempts to impress the self-proclaimed 'Special One' form part of the new Sky1 show Football's Next Star, which kicked off last Sunday.

Throughout the course of the seven-part series the youngsters will work with the likes of Mourinho and former England star Jamie Redknapp to hone their skills and hopefully win a contract at the San Siro.

Contract

Filming for the show – which also saw Ben rub shoulders with Real Madrid megastar Cristiano Ronaldo – was completed last October, but Ben was keeping tight-lipped about how the competition ended.

He said: "I'm not allowed to give anything away, but it would certainly be life-changing to win the chance to play for Inter."

"As soon as I found out I would be going to Italy for a month I knew I had to take it seriously, because you don't receive this sort of opportunity every day. You've got to believe you're going to go all the way."

"When we were out there they were saying it

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

was between me and one other guy, but I just tried to relax and enjoy the experience rather than get nervous and worry about things."

Left-winger Ben earned his place in the finals after impressing the judges at one of several national roadshows, which he was entered into by his Kent youth team coach.

He eventually made the final 10 after impressing Inter youth coaches Paolo Migliavacci and Marco Monti, the latter of whom oversaw the youngsters' progress during their time in Italy and was responsible for deciding who would leave the competition from week to week.

The San Siro is a long way from Welling United's Park View Road, which was where Ben was originally planning to play his football this season.

He said: "There were a lot of problems because I had just signed a contract with Welling before I took part in the competition, but because I was 18 I was able to get out of it."

"In the end Welling were quite good about it, but it was quite stressful because it still hadn't been sorted out the night before the people on the show needed it to be."

"I joined Welling because the manager [Jamie Day] said a professional club would see me and sign me up, but I felt it was a better opportunity to take part in this competition and hopefully get snapped up by Inter."

• Football's Next Star can be seen on Sunday at 8pm on Sky1.

Chief Constable's future to be decided this week

KENT'S Chief Constable Mike Fuller will find out this week if he is to be offered the top job at the Crown Prosecution Service.

Mr Fuller – who is Britain's first black police chief – has been selected by Attorney General Baroness Scotland as the preferred candidate to become Chief Inspector of the CPS.

Members of the Justice Committee in the House of Commons – including Bromley and Chislehurst MP Bob Neill – were due to discuss their decision yesterday, with an official announcement expected to be made soon after.

Should Mr Fuller land the job, it is rumoured his deputy, Adrian Leppard, will fill the Chief Constable position on a temporary basis until a permanent replacement is found.

Speaking to KOS Media shortly after his name was put forward last month, Mr Fuller stressed the deal was far from done.

He said: "I'm not gone yet, but I have been through the selection process and I've been

put forward as the preferred candidate, but the MPs might disagree."

"It is quite an unusual thing for the CPS to look outside the service for this role. I have

engaged with the CPS from the other side of the fence, so am able to see where improvements could be made from an operational angle."

Mr Fuller joined Kent Police as chief constable in January, 2004, having previously been with the Met since starting as a cadet in 1975.

Under his leadership the county has seen the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing Teams – 14 specialist units aimed at combating low-level crime – while also securing the use of a police helicopter as part of a joint working agreement with Essex.

Mr Fuller also holds honorary doctorates of law and is a non-practising barrister, having been called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in July, 2007.



DECISION TIME: Chief Constable Mike Fuller



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yourthanetblogger

Lifelong Kent supporter Dave Mairs berates the club's decision to play a home game in south London



SO Kent's cricketers are to play a 'home' match at The Oval, home of Surrey County Cricket Club.

A joke, a hopelessly mistimed April Fool's, or perhaps a necessary move in the wake of The St Lawrence Ground's planned redevelopment... these were the first thoughts to flash through many supporters' minds.

But no, it was none of these. The decision to schedule a Twenty20 clash between Kent Spitfires and Essex Eagles was taken in the cold light of day to – in the words of acting chief executive Jamie Clifford – “spread the Kent cricket message far and wide”.

And what precisely is the “Kent cricket message” that we're so keen to spread?

The county's failure to win the County Championship since 1978? A truly lamentable return of three trophies in 31 years?

Or perhaps, more likely, the abandonment of all trace of history and tradition at a club that has – admittedly perhaps too much – placed great stock by such values.

Whatever the answer, thankfully the initial marketing drivel has been replaced by a more honest explanation: we're doing it for the money.

The truth is certainly more palatable than any talk of the Kent cricket message (spare us!) but, forgetting the weight of the coffers, what's the real cost?

Even if The Oval venture proves a financial triumph, Kent appear to be behaving like some awe-struck kid brother.

“People should come and watch us at what is an iconic venue,” Mr Clifford has told us. “It's like having a final early in the season.”

The day our county cricket lost its way

No it isn't. It's like watching Kent v Essex at The Oval when we should be watching the fixture at Canterbury, Tunbridge Wells or Beckenham.

The only time Kent should be playing at The Oval is when they face Surrey in an away fixture – which, of course, is what it is.

Kent supporters invariably turn out in big numbers for those matches, ironically making them feel like home games.

That is the triumph for Kent and their fans, not the club's administration doffing the cap and begging to be allowed to party at the home of the supposed big boys.

As a Kent supporter, I find the whole thing humiliating. Doubtless the Essex supporters at The Oval on July 9 will be quick to point out quite how laughable Kent are making themselves look.

It's the very essence of team sport in this country – there are home ties and there are away ties.

In that respect, the quality of your ground or facilities doesn't matter – some of the

trickiest away challenges are at the grottiest places.

Not, you understand, that I'm saying The St Lawrence is grotty. It isn't – it's a lovely place to watch cricket – and it's Kent's home.

Can you imagine Lancashire playing home games at Headingley (Yorkshire's HQ), or Yorkshire hosting games at Old Trafford in Manchester?

Of course not – both clubs have enough respect for their traditions and, importantly, their supporters.

Perhaps at the core of this is the concept of what county cricket is all about.

With the club having fielded disappointingly few home-bred players over recent years, what makes us Kent?

It clearly isn't that fact that we have a team of cricketers who mostly hail from the county – because we don't – so the only credible answer is the fact that we play in Kent.

As the fans sing, “We are Kent”. And that is where, when we are competing at home, we should play our cricket.

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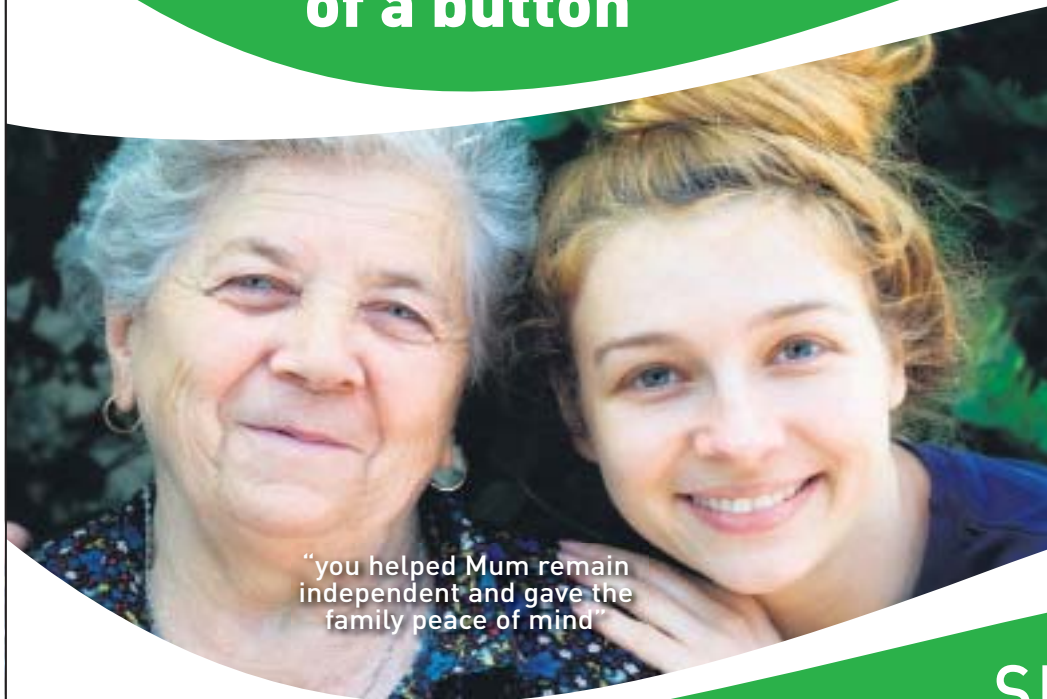
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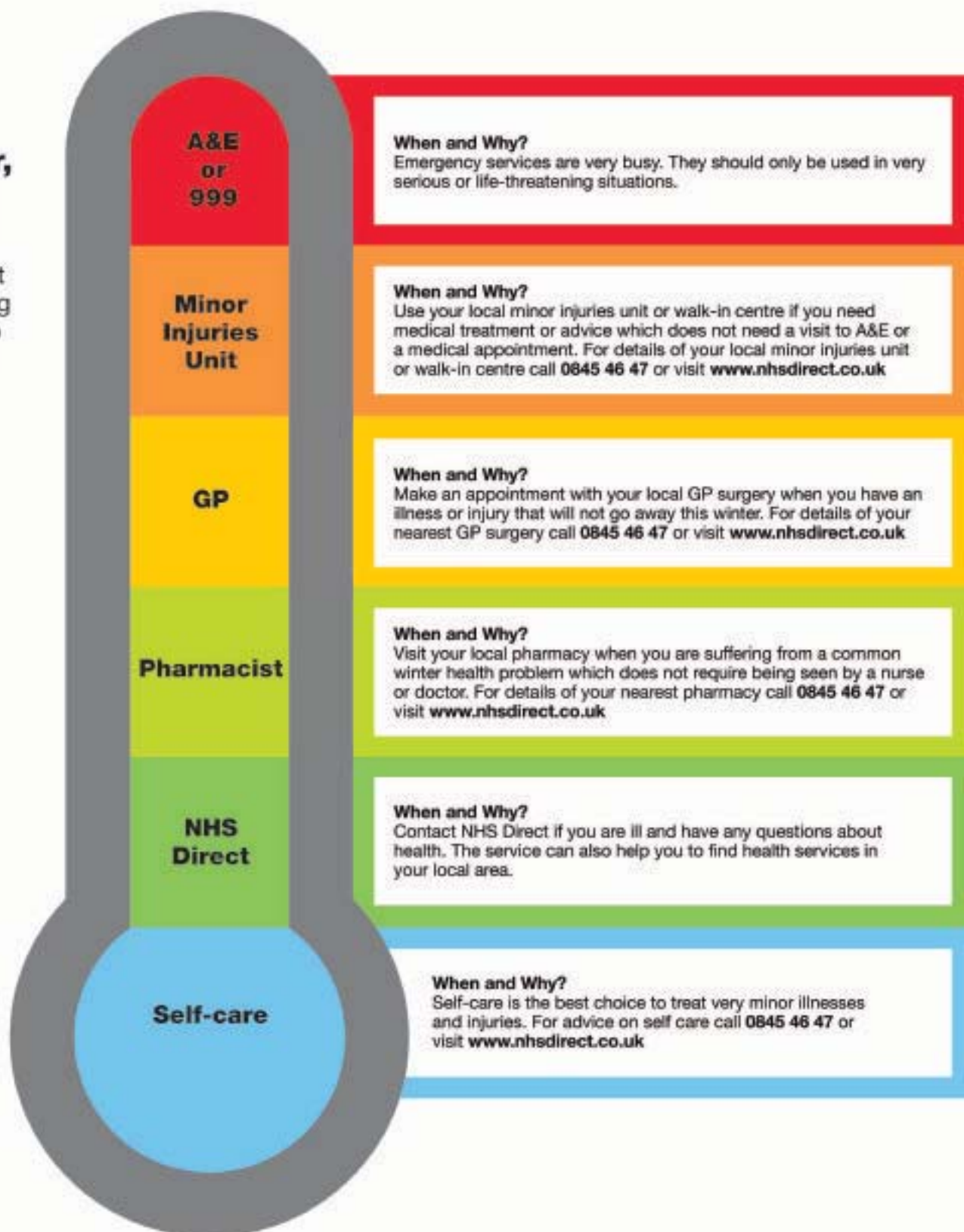


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Churchill's offers a welcoming and relaxed environment in which to work out, and an alternative to the more traditional gyms.

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to show you around.

The Churchill Hotel is offering Yourlocal readers the chance to win one of TWO Platinum memberships for a year offering unlimited use of the gym, sauna and complimentary car parking facilities.

Also included is a free health and fitness assessment for both members! Plus, as a member of the Health Club there are also discounts on food in the Hotel Restaurant and at the Regatta Hair and Beauty Salons.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Churchill Health Club Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is February 15, 2009.

Question: In which town can you find the Churchill Health Club?

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TALK TIME

JACKIE ANDREWS

The director of neighbourhood services' role is to ensure the service delivered to Orbit South Housing Association residents is top-quality



How long have you worked at Orbit and how would you describe your role?

I have worked at Orbit for five years and became director of neighbourhood services in February 2009. My role is to ensure we deliver excellent services to all residents and ensure residents are involved in how the services can be improved and developed. I ensure services are delivered to general-needs residents as well as leaseholders and older residents in sheltered accommodation.

I also ensure rents are collected, estates are managed effectively and antisocial behaviour is dealt with, and we develop communities that people want to live in and enjoy living in.

What are your main priorities at Orbit South?

As well as delivering front-line services and managing the neighbourhood teams, I also work with partners to support the communities in which we work. We work in 23 local-authority areas and have strong relationships with them. Our partnerships enable us to offer apprenticeships and training to residents. Our income team works with credit unions and other agencies to support those who find it hard to meet ends meet. We have a welfare benefits team which supports this approach.

The main priorities are to enable residents to live in homes and communities that they are happy to live in and are of high quality and to offer opportunities that support life choices and life chances.

YOUR LETTERS

Just listen to what Cllr Carter tells you

I HAVE not been involved in party politics for years and the Kent International Airport Consultative Committee, of which I am chairman, is a strictly non-political statutory committee, but I am obliged to respond to county council leader Paul Carter's letter about working together (Yourthanet, January 6).

This works both ways. One of the problems with Cllr Carter and too many of his colleagues at County Hall is that they tell us what we ought to do but do not want to listen to what we tell them.

Last year, after several attempts, we were eventually able to book him to speak to the annual public meeting of the consultative committee.

Just before the meeting, without consulting me or the committee's secretary, he pulled out. This caused great offence to committee members and the public who were keen to ask him about his attitude to the development of the airport.

He claims to have consulted the airport's managing director and Thanet council, but he did not consult us about pulling out of our meeting!

This episode casts doubt on whether he wishes to engage with his electorate and work with us, rather than sitting in County Hall and issuing orders.

He refers to the excellent relationship between the county council and Thanet council.

That worries some members of

the consultative committee who recall the saga of the Wye College development when, in secret, the county and district councils and the landowner (Imperial College) worked on plans for excessive building development on agricultural land which was put forward more or less as a *fait accompli*.

Only after a great fight was this development stopped.

Leopards do not change their spots and Thanet residents need to beware.

This is one of the reasons as many people as possible should take an interest in the Thanet council consultation on the planning framework for the isle.

If you do not write in now, don't complain in future if you don't like what the district and the county council propose.

Paul Twyman
Minnis Bay

• County council leader Paul Carter berates Clive Hart for daring to criticise the leadership of Thanet council.

I don't always agree with what Cllr Hart has to say, but he has got this one exactly right.

The antics of the regime at Thanet council are indeed turning the isle into a laughing stock.

Local politics is rarely of interest to the public, but I work in an office in the middle of Kent and even my colleagues snort with derision at what is going on in Thanet with regard to its council.

So thank you, Cllr Hart, for having the guts to say what so many people are thinking. It's a pity the isle's Tories haven't shown similar strength of character – nor the isle's Tory MP, for that matter!

Mick Davies
Broadstairs

• I WAS amused to see Paul Carter's ringing endorsement of Thanet council and its relationship with the county council.

It doesn't really seem that he knows much of what is going on in Thanet, other than that he feels it should be covered in endless roads and development.

Clearly Cllr Carter has been reading from the same planning manual as Sandy Ezekiel, leader of Thanet council.

One other thing they have in common: both should have resigned a long time ago.

Cllr Ezekiel, of course, for twice breaching standards (including bringing his office into disrepute) and Cllr Carter for his council's loss of millions of pounds of OUR money in the Iceland debacle.

Andy Jones
Ramsgate

• WITH the county grinding to a halt in appalling weather, I should be honoured that in last week's Yourthanet the Conservative leader of KCC took time to attempt to belittle me on the letters pages.

He accused me of listening to party-political tittle-tattle when I called on the Thanet Tory leadership to clean up its act following yet another derogatory article in a national magazine back in November.

Since that article was published, there has been a by-election in Thanet, where residents made it clear that they too have had enough of Thanet's Tory leadership, putting them into third place.

Cllr Carter lives in a lovely village just outside Maidstone and spends a great deal of his time at County Hall.

Proof of just how out-of-touch he is with Thanet matters is

evident in it taking him a month to respond to my original plea to his Conservative Party in this newspaper on December 2, 2009, and if he has failed to hear the damning comments on Thanet's leadership from his Tory members, I can only imagine he must wear earmuffs.

However, only those of us who live in Thanet know the strength of feeling on this issue and Cllr Carter's attempt to patch things up in the Tory camp by attacking me as the opposition leader showed that it is he who indulges in political tittle-tattle when he should be leading our county during difficult times.

Cllr Clive Hart
Labour group leader, Thanet council

High-speed trains no benefit to some

Open letter to Transport Minister Lord Adonis re. Southeastern trains / the Kent coastal service: I HAVE read with some astonishment your paeans of praise for the HS1 service to St Pancras.

This new service may be attractive to travellers from Ashford, but any 'progress' has been achieved at a not inconsiderable cost in time and cash to those of my constituents who commute to London.

Already paying above-average fare increases, they now find the timetable so disrupted and the services to Victoria and Cannon Street so slow that they are resorting to motorcycles, cars and coaches.

Unless signalling is improved upon the Kent Coast line, the Cannon Street and Victoria timetable restored and serious

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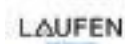


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investment made in the upgrade of the line between Ashford and a new Thanet Parkway station, claims that the east Kent/London service has improved will ring very hollow.

Southeastern's response to recent weather conditions has been lamentable. Trains are slow, dirty, late and expensive.

The need to take underground trains from St Pancras to final destination has meant an increase in the daily cost of £13.50 for a journey that, for most, is not faster but longer and more disruptive.

Roger Gale MP (Conservative)
Thanet North

Youth unemployment could blight futures

THE prospect of a happy New Year seems more elusive than ever for those whose futures have been blighted by youth unemployment.

More than 43,000 18- to 24-year-olds were claiming benefits across the South East at the end of last year at a cost of more than £2.2 million a week.

This figure has risen by 60 per cent in just one year.

Unsurprisingly, those out of work are less happy with their health, friendships and family life.

Our report, The Prince's Trust YouGov Youth Index, shows that unemployed young people are twice as likely to be depressed and many feel ashamed, isolated and unloved.

We fear that these youngsters will become members of a lost generation and face a lack of confidence.

The long-term cost of failing to give young people a helping hand must be counted in wasted human potential as well as monetary terms.

It is organisations like The Prince's Trust that are key to helping young people into jobs. Together, we can surpass last year's achievements of changing 3,000 young lives across the region in 2010.

Rosemary Watt-Wyness
The Prince's Trust

Whose job to keep our footpaths clear?

DURING the snowy weather when the pavements and side roads turned to sheets of ice, I wonder whose responsibility it is to keep footpaths and minor roads passable.

Kent County Council maintains footpaths and roads, but Thanet council is responsible for keeping them clean, so is clearance classed as maintenance or cleaning?

Without access to salt bins near

my home, I was forced to join others walking in the road. I hope either a Thanet councillor or a Kent county councillor can clarify the situation before next winter.

Jennifer Matterface
Broadstairs

New bus contracts boost to rural users

NEW legislation which came into force on January 11, 2010, gives new powers to local authorities to set up Bus Quality Contracts.

Councillors can now demand that their councils take control of bus routes and ensure services, particularly in rural areas.

Councils will be able to determine routes, timetables and fares, and even impose penalties where operators do not meet targets, or cancel contracts when not satisfied with the bus operator.

Kent Green Party welcomes this change as it is particularly valuable to rural areas.

Since 13 per cent of rural households in Kent do not have a car, this change means councils can meet rural needs more effectively. It also allows us to avoid car use.

Steve Dawe
Kent Green Party

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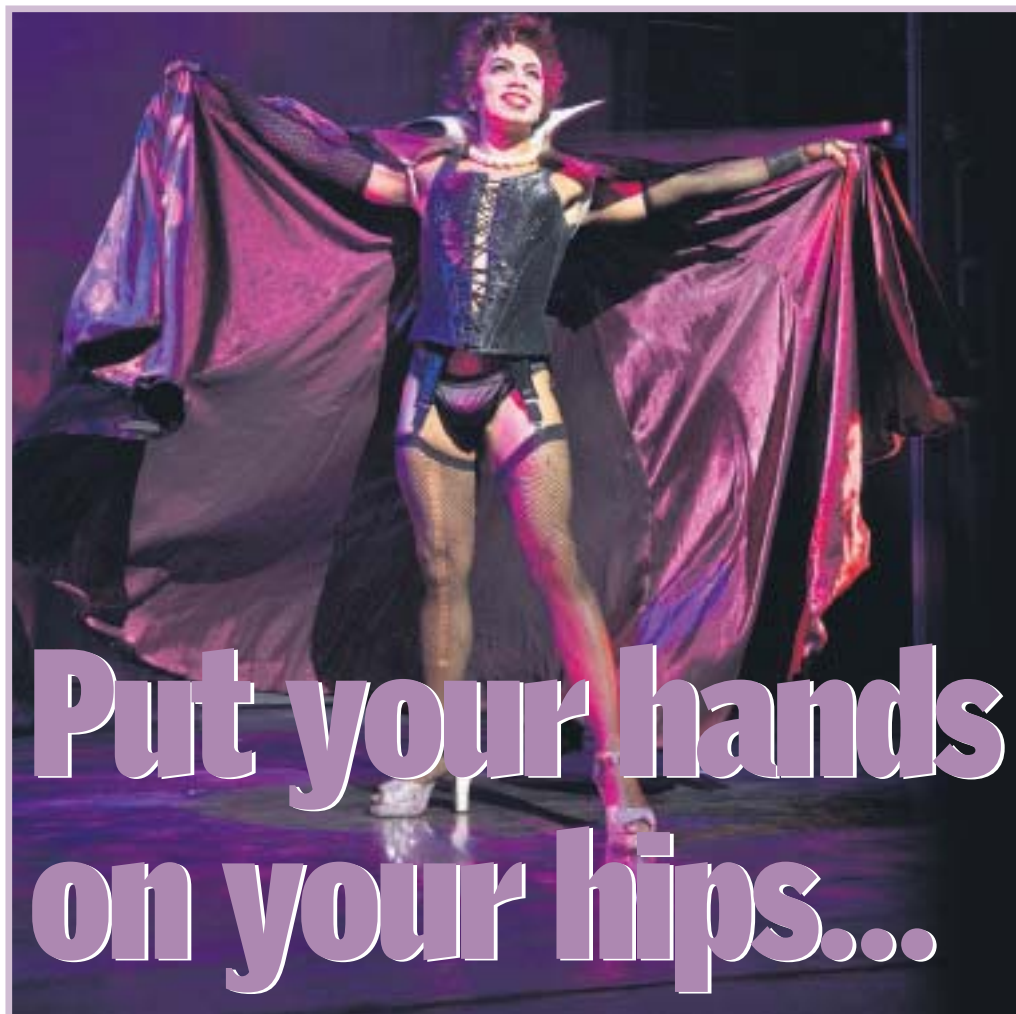
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Party with Frank 'n' Furter and friends when the Rocky Horror Show arrives at the Orchard Theatre. Coming soon

PREPARE to party in the company of a sweet transvestite when The Rocky Horror Show rolls into town.

For more than 30 years, the sumptuous Frank 'n' Furter has been seducing his fellow characters and audiences all over the world.

Created by Richard O'Brien, this rocking musical features unforgettable songs, mind-blowing characters and a famous dance routine which has been filling dance floors for decades.

The charismatic lead figure is played by David Bedella, an Olivier Award-winning actor whose previous credits include television drama Holby City, musicals Chess and Hedwig & the Angry Inch and the controversial Jerry Springer The Opera.

The Rocky Horror Show is a wild and inventive show that follows the exploits of an engaged couple, Brad and Janet, who find themselves stranded in the middle of nowhere when the car breaks down.

They are forced to seek refuge at a nearby castle, but the whiter-than-white couple soon find themselves in a world they had never dreamed of until that fateful night.

The castle is owned by mad scientist Frank 'n' Furter and from the moment they are greeted at the door by a hunchbacked butler, Brad and Janet fear that all is not as it should be. It turns out that they have

disturbed the scientist in the middle of a horrifying experiment – he believes he has discovered the secret of life.

Frank 'n' Furter is pleased with his creation, the blond and hunky Frank 'n' Furter, but he commits terrible acts in his pursuit of scientific advancement.

Forced to stay the night at the castle, Brad and Janet are given separate bedrooms. But it soon appears that Frank 'n' Furter, a bisexual transvestite, has more than laboratory experiments on his mind.

Featuring unforgettable songs such as the Time Warp, Sweet Transvestite and Dammit, Janet, this show is a great night out for seasoned fans and newcomers alike.

Fancy-dress is encouraged, so unleash your wild side and get ready for a night you will never forget.

Tickets are priced from £18, concessions available. Performances start at 8pm, Monday to Thursday, and 6pm and 9pm on Friday and Saturday. To book, call the box office on 01322 220000 or visit the website at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

ROCKY HORROR SHOW

Monday, January 25,
to Saturday, January 30
The Orchard Theatre, Dartford



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THE GREAT SANTA KIDNAP



Saturday and Sunday,
January 16-17
Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs

WINTER festivities are thrown into jeopardy in the latest family show at the Sarah Thorne Theatre Club.

Presented by Millers Amateur Dramatics Society, The Great Santa Kidnap is an exciting production in which two children battle to save the most festive day of the year. It is Christmas Eve and all is busy at the North Pole as Fergus, Santa Claus's Chief Forebrownie hurries to make the sleigh ready for the big night.

But three wicked goblins – Sneergripe, Snottle and Bug – plan to kidnap Santa and hold him for ransom, ruining Christmas for all the world's children. But the kidnap takes place outside



Tommy and Anna's house and the two plucky children are not going to take it lying down.

Performances start at 2.30pm and 7.30pm on Saturday and at 2.30pm on Sunday. Tickets cost £7/£5

each or £20 for families of two adults and two children.

To book, call 0845 262 6263 or email info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk to reserve seats. Non-members must book at least 24 hours in advance.



KITTIE

Tuesday, January 19
The Westcoast, Margate



DISCOVER why the members of Canadian metal band Kittie are no pussycats when they rock The Westcoast next week.

The all-female group were founded by sisters Mercedes and Morgan Lander in 1996 and within three years they experienced significant success.

The band shot to fame with their debut album Brackish, which featured the massive hit single Spit, and they became stars while still in their mid-teens.

They were asked to support Slipknot on the

infamous band's UK tour in the early 2000s and went on to appear at festivals in America and Europe. Kittie have performed in Japan, Mexico and Australia, as well as gracing the pages of numerous music magazines.

With their charismatic stage presence and dazzling performances, Kittie have really got their claws into the competitive world of metal and should prove to be an entertaining headline act at The Westcoast.

Support will be provided by Malefice and It Dies Today, two great bands who should not be missed.

Doors open at 7.30pm and advance tickets cost £12.50. To book, visit www.westcoastlive.co.uk, email westcoastbar1@aol.com or phone 07938 090700.

CHORISTERS OF CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

Saturday, January 16
St Laurence Church, Ramsgate



EXPERIENCE the magical sound of young voices at a concert by the Choristers of Canterbury Cathedral.

Boys aged between nine and 12 will be visiting Ramsgate this weekend to demonstrate the wonderful sound that has taken them as far afield as Canada and the US.

These dedicated and talented young choristers have already appeared on television and radio, recorded CDs and performed at high-profile occasions.

The boys live in the beautiful Cathedral Choir



House in Canterbury and attend St Edmund's School, with the Dean and Chapter contributing two-thirds of the fees.

They receive fantastic musical training, which includes learning to play at least two instruments and choir practice takes place twice every day.

From singing during a royal visit to performing for

thousands at Canterbury Cathedral Christmas services, the choristers enjoy remarkable experiences that they will carry with them throughout their lives.

The concert starts at 7pm and includes works by Purcell, Fauré, Stanford and Rutter. Priced at £5, tickets are available from the Parish Office on 01843 592478.

THANET LEISURE

Go on a London theatre trip to see Billy Elliot

THEATRE fans are invited to join a coach trip to see the hit musical Billy Elliot in London next week.

The Winter Gardens in Margate has organised an excursion to the Victoria Palace Theatre and the coach departs at 4.15pm on Thursday, January 21, and costs £56.50, or £51.50 for Friends. Book at www.margatewintergardens.co.uk, or phone 01843 292795/296111.

Fling yourselves into having a good time

KICK up your heels and enjoy an afternoon of toe-tapping music from The Fling.

With infectious fiddle and vibrant vocals, this act also gets the party started with bouzaki, mandolin, guitar and banjo. Catch them live at The Rose in Albion Street, Broadstairs, from 4pm to 6.30pm on Sunday.

Phone the pub on 01843 861917.

It takes Heroes to play hit ska and new wave

LEADING tribute band Heroes will be celebrating the best of new wave, mod and ska music this weekend.

The band play hits by the likes of The Jam, The Clash, Blondie, Billy Idol and more. They will be appearing at the Flying Horse in Park Road, Ramsgate, on Saturday.

For more information about the band, go online at www.heroesnew.com.

Tell us all about your upcoming events

WOULD you like to see your concert, production or event publicised on these pages?

Send full details – including dates, times, ticket prices and how to book – to jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk or by post to the address on page 2. Submissions should arrive at least two weeks before the preferred date of publication.

If possible, include a good photograph.

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Dave Lee is Tinkerbell in this year's Canterbury panto. Search 'Peter Pan'

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SEX & DRUGS & ROCK & ROLL (15)



Distinguished by an incendiary lead performance from Andy Serkis, Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll is a biopic of 1970s punk pioneer Ian Dury that is as unconventional and fantastical as the man himself.

THE ROAD (15)



The future isn't bright, not in the slightest, in John Hillcoat's Oscar-tipped, post-apocalyptic thriller, adapted by Joe Penhall from the novel by Cormac McCarthy, who also wrote No Country For Old Men.

IT'S COMPLICATED (15)



Actress Meryl Streep affirms her credentials as one of the best comic actresses working today in It's Complicated and Alec Baldwin is irresistible as the bullish alpha male determined to turn back time.

Spierig's blood-sucking world is drained of plot

BY DAMON SMITH

"LIFE'S a bitch then you don't die," grumbles a blood-thirsty vampire in Daybreakers.

Set nine years hence, in a world decimated by a mysterious plague which has transformed the vast majority of the population into fanged fiends, Peter and Michael Spierig's sci-fi thriller injects fresh blood into the creatures of the night.

The film retains the familiar iconography: the vampires have no reflection; humans slay bloodsuckers with a stake through the heart; and the carnivorous beasts fry to a crisp in direct sunlight.

Environmental

All that is missing is a bulb of garlic, a protective church cross and a couple of busty wenches, heaving to be bitten.

However, there's nothing remotely camp or erotic about the Spierigs' vampires: they are everyday folk who commute to work in the dead of night and queue for coffee infused with blood.

Humans account for five per cent of the population and are captured by the vampires to be drained of their blood.

In a clear nod to current environmental concerns, this precious resource has almost run dry and the dominant species faces possible extinction unless it can engineer a blood substitute.

Undead scientist Edward (Ethan Hawke), who was turned by his soldier brother Frankie, is a leading researcher at Bromley Marks, the world leader in blood pharmacy, run by the conniving Charles Bromley (Sam Neill).

Working alongside colleague Christopher,



HUMAN TOUCH: Ethan Hawke plays undead scientist Edward in Daybreakers; he is trying to create a blood substitute

Edward struggles to create a stable, synthetic substitute. Sympathetic to the human cause, the scientists meet human survivor Audrey, who in turn introduces Edward to resistance leader Elvis (Willem Dafoe).

They have an alternative solution to the blood crisis: cure vampirism.

Daybreakers opens with an infected girl writing a suicide note and waiting for the sun to rise.

Stylish credits quickly transport us to April 2019 and an earthy colour palette of greys, browns and black: it's cold, clinical and far removed from the gothic splendor of bygone vampire yarns.

The neat central premise provides plenty of scope for the Spierigs to create a believable and detailed universe but after an hour or so,

the narrative runs out of steam, most notably in the bungled relationship between Bromley and his daughter Alison.

Special effects are slathered in blood and goo and the directors orchestrate a fast-paced chase, which sees Edward scorched by rays of sunlight from the bullet holes in his car.

Hawke and his co-stars are suitably lifeless – Neill arches an eyebrow every now and then – while Dafoe appropriates all of the best lines, including a hysterical analogy between human survival in a vampire world and sleeping with a particularly fragrant prostitute.

An imminent, gory death is no time to lose your sense of humour.

DAYBREAKERS 
Certificate 15

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Hairspray, price £1

THANET SHOPPING

Indoor market perfect for winter shopping

ESCAPE the high street and discover some unique products at the Pantiles' indoor craft market.

Whether you are looking for gifts or ideas for your own home, the market has a wealth of interesting crafts on offer at the shopping area in Tunbridge Wells. The event runs at the Corn Exchange from 10am to 4pm on Saturday.

For more information about events at the Pantiles, visit www.thepantilesonline.co.uk or call 01892 515675.

Turning the pages of Snodland's history

USING beautiful photographs, local historian Dr Andrew Ashbee presents a fascinating history of Snodland.

In his new book, Snodland and District Through Time, Ashbee invites readers to take a journey through the decades. Find out more about life in the area throughout the 20th century and into the 21st century with this book, which is full of well-kept images and intriguing history.

Snodland and District Through Time, by Amberley is priced at £12.99.

Dyson shop will suck you in at Bluewater

SPRING cleaning will be a breeze now that Dyson has opened its first 'pop up shop' at Bluewater.

The temporary shop space is open until Friday, January 22 and sells vacuum cleaners, handhelds and the new Dyson Air Multiplier fan. Shoppers can try out the devices, learn how the products work and speak to the experts about Dyson's range.

For more information visit www.bluewater.co.uk.

Hurry to get your sale bargains at the outlet

BUY top brands on a budget with the continuing sale at Ashford Designer Outlet.

At the time of writing, Bench men's T-shirts were reduced from £22 to just £8, while Toshiba is offering six months' worth of free cinema tickets with any portable DVD product. There are big savings to be found at Mamas & Papas, but hurry because that sale ends on Friday.

For full details of sales and offers at Ashford Designer Outlet, visit the website at www.ashforddesigneroutlet.com.

It's going to get chilly in your Waitrose store

EMBRACE the ice age at Waitrose as the supermarket prepares to relaunch its frozen food products.

From delicious meal ideas, such as Beef in Ale (£3.95), to handy sauces like Pesto (£3.75), the freezer aisle is being transformed into an essential part of the kitchen store cupboard. Knock out the Four Mushroom Risotto (£6.49) from frozen, or the perfect breakfast with Six Pains au Chocolat (£1.99). The new range will be launched on Monday, January 25.

Thanet's Live Music Scene

Saturday 16th January

Charity Karaoke Night

The New Inn, 2 Delf Street, Sandwich 01304 612335

Saturday 16th January

The Fling

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 16th January

Wheres My Thing

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 23rd January

Jeb

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 23rd January

Crazy Train

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 30th January

Blow

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 30th January

Purity

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 6th February

Wheres My Thing

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 6th February

Phatt B-Stards

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 12th February

Damage Case

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 13th February

As You Now

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 13th February

Hard Road Blues Band

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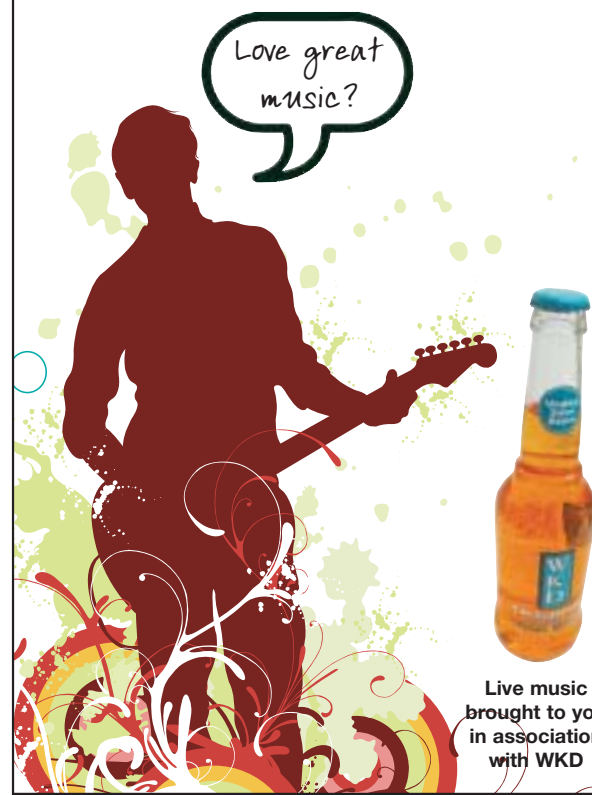


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Week-long birthday party ends great year at Forum

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

A WEEK-long live music party will be held at The Forum this month to mark the venue's 17th birthday.

The celebrations start on Saturday, January 23, when Spycatcher – featuring members of punk-rockers Gallows – headline.

Support comes from The Painted Smiles, made up of Sikh and Unkle musicians, and Kent-based up-and-comers Feed The Rhino.

The Tunbridge Wells venue's anniversary offering also features indie-rockers Dogs, who have toured with the likes of Paul Weller, The Enemy and Razorlight, with the London outfit set to perform on Saturday, January 30.

The line-up also features Allegro, Filthy Nights and Medway-based four-piece Needs Must, who recorded their debut video at The Command House, Chatham, at the weekend.

Monday night's entertainment comes by way of The Forum's ninth battle of the bands competition and Wednesday sees talented singer-songwriter Ellie Goulding take to the stage.

A secret special guest plays on Tuesday.

Forum promoter Chris Pritchard said he was hoping to build on last year's success.

He said: "The Forum is Kent's longest-running venue and we have had an incredible 2009. We are lucky to attract some of the biggest new and classic names in the popular music scene, such as White Lies, Graham Coxon, Ash and Mumford & Sons.

"We are also lucky enough to have one of the strongest selections of local music outside of London, including Tom Williams And The Boat, Klaus Says Buy The Record, Everything



Everything, Rachel's Got A Flamethrower and Joeyfat.

"Hopefully we can improve on what has been a tremendous year for The Forum."

For details, visit www.twforum.co.uk.

Saturday, January 23: Spycatcher, The Painted Smiles, Feed The Rhino

Monday, January 25: Battle Of The Bands, The Antics, Black Hawks, The Seperation

Wednesday, January 27: Ellie Goulding, Klaus Says Buy The Record, The Help Movement

Thursday, January 28: Secret Guests, Son Of Kirk, Tom Williams

Friday, January 29: Heartbreak DJ set (Ali Renault), Doop Djs

Saturday, January 30: Dogs, Allegro, Needs Must, Filthy Nights

HIGHLIGHTS: Headline acts Spycatcher (above) and London-based indie-rockers Dogs will be at The Forum



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3dbs Down perform live in Gillingham



Tortilla Army feature on KOS Media's in-house music show The Ether



TOP FIVE KENT CHART

- 1 The Flack – Forget Me (from Deal)
- 2 Gristlefridge – Unbreakable (from Whitstable)
- 3 Shelta – Beautiful Girl (from Bexley)
- 4 Ron Bowdery – This Is It Kelpie (from New Eltham)
- 5 The Phalanxes – The Cure (from Herne Bay)



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Friday 29th January Disco and

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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

TAKE ME OUT
ITV 1, 7.30pm, Saturday

THE TV dating show must be a hard thing to get right.

Let's face it, going out on the pull is a national pastime – it always has been and always will be – but there are very few shows that have really addressed the subject. It must be the TV equivalent of trying to nail down jelly.

Blind Date is the most obvious example, but despite dragging on for decades, that was hardly edgy or indeed relevant – especially as it was so obviously staged.

Then there was Singled Out on MTV and Chris Evans's ill-fated Boys And Girls, which sank without trace in the early noughties.

Other than that, I'm on to even more obscure shows, and that's just weird for a subject that 99 per cent of us are interested in.

I mean, if you're not already in a relationship, then you're probably thinking about getting in one – and setting up other people is a sport for some.

So fair play to ITV, who have taken a run at it in the form of Take Me Out.

With lad-in-chief Paddy McGuinness at the wheel we meet 30 single women who set about running the rule over several guys hoping to secure a date.

After he has been probed and verbally prodded by all concerned, the girls decide whether to let their interest slide and buzz out, or stay in the game.

Particularly cruel is the way that many drop out as soon as he says "Hello, my name is...", showing that when it comes to judging a book by its cover women can be just as bad as men.



PLAYING CUPID: Paddy McGuinness hosts ITV's newest dating programme Take Me Out

After the set amount of rounds our subject must choose which girl to take out from those who remain, adding a bit of tension to matters.

Credit to the guys who come forward, as watching the lights go out on your love life on national telly must be a bit embarrassing.

One bloke's humiliation was total when he ended up with nobody declaring an interest.

In true Blind Date-style we get an update on how the big dates went the following week.

It's hardly highbrow entertainment, but it's jovial enough and makes a change from the endless stream of Saturday night talent shows we have been bombarded with in recent months, even if it is, in truth, a bit of a meat market.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

YOUR mind, body and spirit are intimately connected. If you don't feel well, it may be because you're not emotionally fulfilled. Spending more time on pursuits that make you happy is essential. Steer clear of people whose religious or political beliefs are offensive to you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

A PERIOD of study is coming to a close and you're a little sad as a result. The prospect of finding a practical use for your knowledge is a little daunting. Job opportunities are few and far between. Don't beat yourself up for this turn of events. After all, it's beyond your control.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

YOU long for privacy, but work demands keep crashing into your personal life. Share your knowledge and know-how with others. That way, people won't have to run to you whenever there is an emergency. It's the only sensible course of action to take.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

ALL the experience in the world has not prepared you for the challenges ahead. You just have to trust your instincts when it comes to dealing with a troubled relative. Whatever the reason for this animosity, you've got to address it in a direct fashion at the start of the year.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

RECENTLY, you've been neglecting friends, choosing to focus on a lover or youngster's needs instead. Now you've got to rejoin your social circle. Of course, you may be met with mixed reviews. 2010 is a year for building bridges and strengthening ties.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 21)

A SOURCE of income will be cut off, forcing you to find another way to earn money. Unfortunately, the kind of work you enjoy will be elusive. You might have to take a job just for the sake of paying your bills. Try not to dwell on your disappointment. There is a silver lining.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

FRIENDS are impatient for you to join their ranks, but you're not ready yet. A romance, or promising creative project commands every ounce of your attention. Some will accuse you of being selfish for neglecting loved ones, but nobody realises how dependent they are on you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

SEXUAL hang-ups are making you miserable. If you've had trouble maintaining a long-term relationship, think about getting some counselling. Adopting a healthier attitude to life and love is critical to your happiness. You can find the kind of love you've always wanted this year.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

A TENSE family situation comes to an end. Moving away from meddling relatives comes as a huge relief. Check out the chances of doing some voluntary work, taking a challenging job or opening your own business are all positive ideas. Reach for the stars.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

THIS is the time to put an end to an image that no longer serves your interests. You're tired of being the one everyone comes to for guidance. Pursuing your own star should be your first priority. If that means shaking off some overly dependent people, so be it.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

CAREER matters could come to a head in 2010. It may be necessary to decide between work and family. A once in a lifetime opportunity depends on your moving to a different location. Putting this much distance between you and your loved ones makes you nervous.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

AN intimate relationship needs to undergo some serious changes. The problem is, this person has taken all of your sacrifices for granted. You have to consider whether you want to stay committed to such a relationship. Set the tone for the coming year by putting your needs first.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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No120

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EASY

	6		5		1		9	
9						1	4	7
2				7	9	6		
		4		3	7			5
	7			1			3	
6			8	4		7		
		6	7	5				9
8	4	5						6
	9		6		4		8	

MEDIUM

				3		8		9
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1		3						
	5							4
4		6	9		8	2		7
7							5	
						4		2
				9	5	1	7	
9	7		6					

HARD

		7	1					
1			4	8				
	8	9			7	2		
7					4	5		
9	2		5				3	6
	5	4						2
		6	2			1	4	
				4	6			3
					3	5		

CRYPTIC CLUES

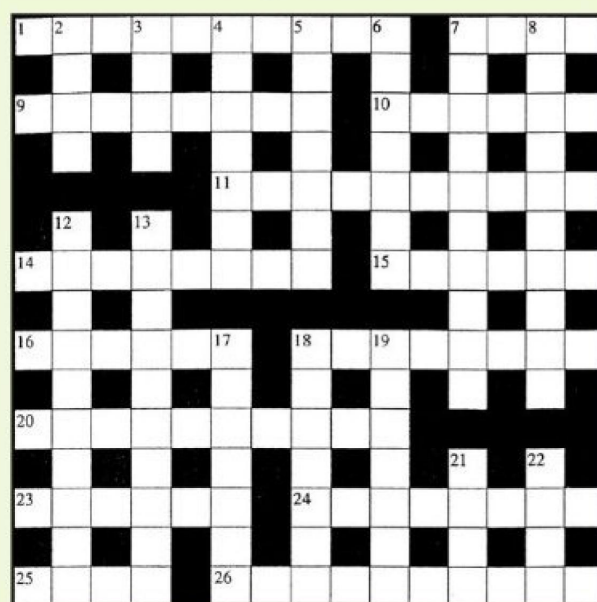
ACROSS

- 1 Stairs adorn part of ship (6-4)
7 Only one per person but several people can make one (4)
9 Webb waving goodbye to town in South Wales (4,4)
10 Find it painful to be an informer (6)
11 Single bit of scientific research? (10)
14 Aromatic river ebbing fast (8)
15 Novice, your first musician (6)
16 Purple plant (6)
18 Missile entered news broadcast (8)
20 Agree to keep in touch (10)
23 Mark, Greek character went round Thailand (6)
24 Something put on caught out of harmful habit (8)
25 Brother cultivated more than half the berries (4)
26 In all directions at each place in question (10)

DOWN

- 2 Part of ear used to hear cello better (4)
3 Go west then north for the dress (4)
4 Bar part performed with ease, say (7)
5 I, say, notice rudimentary organ (7)
6 Makes trellis camouflage flighty creature (7)
7 Great outcry when colourful racehorse rose (4,6)
8 Symptomatic? (10)
12 It flies the police about over the river (10)
13 Encourage unfashionable rogue to take right flag (5,5)
17 Locates variety that is in proportion (2,5)
18 Ordered bird in patterned fabric (7)
19 Boy with unknown time of fame in March (4,3)
21 Long to take the item with honour (4)
22 Number said to be in favour (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Boxing match (10)
7 Wader (4)
9 Thaw (8)
10 Amend (6)
11 Feasting (10)
14 Plundered (8)
15 Clothing container (6)
16 Beset with bad luck (6)
18 Talkative person (8)
20 Very quietly (10)
23 Raiser (anag.) (6)
24 Hypocritical (3-5)
25 Constellation near Draco (4)
26 Nap (5,5)

DOWN

- 2 Undersized pig (4)
3 Zilch (4)
4 Distasteful lodgings (4-3)
5 Gathered corn left by reaper (7)
6 Per (7)
7 Request (10)
8 Details (3,3,4)
12 Clearness of the atmosphere (10)
13 Egyptian port (10)
17 Female side (7)
18 Bristle (anag.) (7)
19 Study of the earth (7)
21 West African country (4)
22 Writing-table (4)

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No119

EASY

4	3	8	2	5	1	6	7	9
5	2	9	4	6	7	3	1	8
1	7	6	3	8	9	4	2	5
9	6	3	7	4	2	8	5	1
7	8	4	1	9	5	2	3	6
2	5	1	8	3	6	7	9	4
3	1	5	8	9	7	8	4	2
8	9	7	5	2	4	1	8	3
8	4	2	6	1	3	5	6	7

MEDIUM

5	8	7	4	9	6	1	3	2
2	1	9	7	5	3	6	8	4
4	6	3	2	1	8	9	7	5
6	4	1	3	2	9	8	5	7
9	3	2	8	7	5	4	1	6
8	7	5	6	4	1	3	2	9
7	5	8	1	6	4	2	3	9
1	2	4	9	3	7	5	6	8
3	8	6	5	8	2	7	4	1

HARD

5	8	4	7	2	1	9	3	6
1	7	9	3	5	6	8	4	2
2	3	6	9	8	4	5	7	1
6	1	5	2	9	7	4	8	3
7	2	8	6	4	3	1	9	5
9	4	3	8	1	5	6	2	7
3	6	7	5	9	8	2	1	4
8	5	1	4	7	2	3	6	9
4	8	2	1	3	9	7	5	6

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No119

ACROSS: 1 Jaunting-car 9 Stanza 10 Ailment 12 Reroute 14 Dowager 15 Six thousand 16 Two 17 Mod 19 Rallying-cry 22 Twelfth 23 Necktie 24 Venison 25 Bleach 26 Fleet Street. DOWN: 2 Anthrax 3 Nonsuch 4 Ida 5 Grand Canyon 6 Allowed 7 Weight 8 Stereotyped 11 Presumptive 13 Equal chance 18 Duenna 19 Refusal 20 Nuclear 21 Cuticle 25 Bus.

QUICK SOLUTION No120

ACROSS: 1 Prizefighter 7 Libs 9 Unfreeze 10 Reverse 11 Banquet 14 Pillaged 15 Hatbox 16 Jinxed 18 Bournemouth 20 Planissimo 23 Sierra 24 Two-faced 25 Lyra 26 Forty winks. DOWN: 2 Runt 3 Zero 4 Flea-bag 5 Cleaned 6 Through 7 Invitation 8 Ins and outs 12 Visibility 13 Alexandria 17 Distaff 18 Blister 19 Geology 21 Mail 22 Desk.

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Preserved in splendid isolation

■ BY VICTORIA SHAW

NORTHERN Cyprus, with its unspoiled natural beauty, has much to attract Britons, whether you want to explore the coastlines, relax on the uncluttered beaches or investigate ancient ruins.

At the crossroads of three continents, Cyprus is known for its natural romance and charm. According to legend, it was once given to Cleopatra by Julius Caesar as a token of his affection.

The laidback Turkish side of the island has few traces of mass tourism. Northern Cyprus enjoys long, hot Mediterranean summers, when temperatures reach a very pleasant 35C, while winters are mostly mild.

The unhurried pace is reflected in its nightlife, so think more of cosy bars and restaurants than the pounding club scene.

An obvious starting point in the north for any visitor is Kyrenia, with a distinctive horse-shoe-shaped harbour boasting colourful fishing boats and a lively yet relaxed atmosphere.

You can enjoy an evening drink on the water's edge and take in the unhurried surroundings. Decent lunches, with drinks, cost little more than £8 per head.

A few miles east of Kyrenia, stands the gothic abbey at Bellapais. The village is immortalised in the book *Bitter Lemons Of Cyprus* by Lawrence Durrell, brother of naturalist Gerald Durrell, which recounts his tales of moving to Cyprus in the 1950s.

The main part was built between 1198 and 1205 by King Hugh III of France, with Italian frescoes at the entrance of the chapel dating from the 15th century.



RELAXING: The harbour at Kyrenia is a great place to spend an evening. Right, the gothic abbey at Bellapais

Travellers can take their time wandering through the narrow streets of Bellapais, with its boutiques and restaurants. In the main square, where locals stop and chat, stands what Durrell named 'The Tree of Idleness'.

More energetic visitors can make the exhilarating walk up to St Hilarion Castle. The views are stunning, and a small cafe near the entrance is a great stop before the return trip.

Local food takes in a mix of influences. The traditional meze, made up of hot and cold appetisers including salads, meat and fish, is a particular attraction. Meals tend to be washed down with a Turkish coffee.

For another authentic experience, try a traditional Turkish-style massage. Mine was fairly vigorous and without any of the lotions and potions you might find in a British spa, but it left me feeling great.

But while the natural beauty of Northern Cyprus is undeniable, its political past casts a shadow on the island.

Cut off from the Greek side since 1974, the north has been in political limbo for decades. Turkey grabbed it in response to a Greek-backed military coup aimed at union with Athens, but Turkish occupation has seen the area shunned by the international community, limiting cultural and economic links.

In July, Turkish Cypriots celebrated 35 years since the arrival of Turkish troops, while Greek Cypriots on the other side marked the 'black anniversary' with wailing sirens.

A 'Green Line' divides the two parts from Morphou through Nicosia to Famagusta, and the contrast between the more well-heeled south with its trendy boutiques compared with the less-developed north is marked.

FACT FILE: NORTHERN CYPRUS

Time difference	+Two hours (GMT)
Capital	Nicosia
Language	Turkish
Population	270,000
Currency	Turkish Lira
Religion	Muslim

Travel facts

Victoria Shaw was a guest of Direct Traveller, which offers seven nights' half-board at the Malpas Hotel from January 1-March 31 from £429, including flights ex-London, transfers and upgrade to seaview room.

Supplements on direct flights from regional UK airports start at about £20. A five-night half-board stay during winter starts at £1,056, including flights and return transfers.

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WOMEN seeking men

MAKE IT LAST Slim female, 25, 5'10", long brown hair and blue eyes, caring and social, likes clubs, cinema, seeking a kind male, 30-45 for a relationship. Box 461558 **1**

MATCH OF THE DAY! Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5'12, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494 **1**

NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT... Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5'11, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105 **1**

LOOKIN 4 A GUY WHO'S EASY ON THE EYE! 25yr old female, 5'10, medium-curved build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, WLTW tail, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644 **1**

BRING ME SUNSHINE Outgoing, fun female 28, seeks outgoing, fun guy to make me laugh and share the good times with. Box 882511 **1**

WILLING TO BE THE ONE Loving single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5'13, slim and sexy, part-time learner, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury. Box 464326 **1**

SOUND GOOD? Social lady, 29, likes walks, swimming, vgsch, like to meet a man, 30-55 for lots of fun. Brighton. Box 463984 **1**

IS ANYONE OUT THERE? 31yr old easygoing, independent female, WLTW cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life with, leading to LTR the right person. Box 879531 **1**

FAIRYTALE ENDING! Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5'10, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957 **1**

HORSES FOR COURSES... Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 **1**

HAPPY DAYS! Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTW intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 **1**

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME... Hello! I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5'13, shoulder length curly hair, enjoys eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039 **1**

SEALED WITH A KISS Petite lady, 38yr old, blonde, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wining and dining, laughing, seeks lovely, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 **1**

WHAT YOU SEE... Young looking 36 year old, 5'14, brown eyes, slim, one daughter, hard working, very sincere and caring, genuine, GSOH, seeks similar male 33-43. Rochester. Box 460307 **1**

STARRY NIGHTS Hello! I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878379 **1**

I LIKE DRIVING IN MY CAR Honest, caring woman, 36, 5'15, slim, blue eyes. I'm caring, honest, have four children, enjoys drives, horse riding. Maidstone. Box 456159 **1**

LOVE TO LOVE YOU Lovely female, 36, 5'14, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking man for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102 **1**

HISTORIC MEETING? Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 **1**

SEIZE THE DAY Loving female, 36, 5'14, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 **1**

CUTE AS CAN BE Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897963 **1**

DON'T LET ME DOWN Petite, black female, 38, 5'14, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684 **1**

EASY TO LOVE Lovely African female, 39, 5'14, likes football, socialising, cinema, and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male for a LTR. Ashford. Box 460968 **1**

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FAMILY ORIENTATED Eastbourne based woman, 39, 5'10, slim/medium build. I'm a single mum, and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034 **1**

AN AFRICAN DIAMOND 38yr old African girl, likes cooking, going out, watching films and dancing, seeking a loving and caring boy for companionship and more. Box 446676 **1**

SHOW ME HEAVEN Black lady, 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area, WLTW a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608 **1**

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE Lovely, glossy brunette, 35yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTW a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 **1**

CAN'T SMILE WITHOUT YOU Professional female, 41, 5'11, brown hair/eyes, likes country pubs and walks, looking for a gent, 42-55, to share a happy future with. Gillingham. Box 462538 **1**

TAKE A LITTLE TIME Social lady, 41, 5'3", gosh, likes family life, going out, cinema, walks, staying in, seeking a fun male for company. Sheerness. Box 461145 **1**

LOVE IS ALL AROUND Happy-go-lucky, bubbly blonde, 42, blonde eyes, hard-working, love outings, looking for a nice, genuine guy for relationship. Bromley. Box 454517 **1**

NO REGRETS Bubbly, separated female, single mum, 40, slim build, love meeting new people and enjoying life, looking for an understanding man for happiness. Box 895246 **1**

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YOU'RE THE ONE THAT I WANT Fun-loving lady, 42, 5'11, brown hair, green eyes, enjoy being out doors, horse riding, pubs, cinema and sharing a nice bottle of wine, WLTW you! Box 865096 **1**

TALL ORDER Curvy lady, 5'10, 43yrs old, blonde hair/green eyes. I live in Deal in Kent, I'm down-to-earth and looking to be with you. Box 456020 **1**

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5'11, likes bowling, eating in/out etc, looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gosh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348 **1**

ANOTHER CHAPTER Hard working PA, 43, single mum, grey/blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seeks lovely, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne. Box 461037 **1**

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU? Single mum, 42, from Ashford, 5'10, dark hair/eyes, likes wine bars, pubs, days out and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving gent, 5'10+. Box 461129 **1**

SWEET AS HONEY Petite, slim, honey-blond lady, 5'4", age 44, enjoys the seaside and horse-racing, looking for a dark-haired, genuine, honest and professional man, 25-50 in Brighton. Box 458465 **1**

HOW YOU DOING? Attractive, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459128 **1**

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS Laid-back single mum, very bubbly, outgoing and intelligent, 43, enjoys social life, drinks, meals, cinema, looking to start afresh with someone new, easygoing and life-loving. Box 446102 **1**

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY Bubbly female, 44, brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 **1**

ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL Young-looking 46yr old female, 5'14, slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5'17, to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 461938 **1**

YOUNG AT HEART Young 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for someone fit, handsome, intelligent, full of fun, sexy, Worldly Man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 884113 **1**

A REAL DIAMOND African lady, 47, honest, loving and caring, enjoy most things in life, looking for a male, 50+, for a LTR. Canterbury. Box 460999 **1**

MY PRINCE? Dog lover, into sports, walks, motorbikes, GSOH, female, 47, pretty, long dark hair, looking for knight in shining armour! East Sussex area. Box 872961 **1**

ETERNALLY YOURS Easygoing woman, likes most things in life: country walks, films, cinema, comedy. I'm 46, 5'12, medium build, WLTW genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635 **1**

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME? Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366 **1**

HELP ME OPEN UP Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTW male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585 **1**

LIKE MINDS Single female, 49, enjoy a varied social life going out, tennis, bowling, out for meals, cinema, travelling, looking to meet someone with similar interests. Eastbourne. Box 866286 **1**

NORMAL GAL Female, 48, divorced, happy, looking for the one, friendship, laughter, looking for smart, genuine, kind tall honest man, age under 50 is all I ask. Maidstone. Box 866380 **1**

STIMULATING COMPANY Bubbly, caring, single mum, 46, WLTW nice male, for good conversations, company, and maybe more. Box 396829 **1**

MAKE IT ENJOYABLE Pretty, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460686 **1**

ARE YOU LOVING AND CARING? Young 48 year old, loving, caring, very bubbly, 5'15, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes clubs, cinema, eating out, cosy nights, good company. Box 434089 **1**

JUST IMAGINE Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTW genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 835562 **1**

THE RIGHT FIT Big lady (5'1), looking for decent, genuine man. I'm attractive, and very loving so go on, give me a try! I like cooking and family life. Box 862888 **1**

HIT THE JACKPOT Good-looking female, 46, blonde, slim, reliable and honest man, must be a moderate drinker, for companionship and romance. Box 878216 **1**

HERE AND NOW Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449524 **1**

LOVELY BUBBLY Short 5'1yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with guts to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311 **1**

MAKE A DATE Petite female, 52, blonde, blue eyes, seeks 46-61 year old single male for it. Interests include walking, photography and more. Brighton. Box 866322 **1**

LAUGHS AND TEARS Bubbly blonde woman, 52, 5'15, blue eyes. I'm a single mum, living and caring with the right man, likes socialising, cinema, walks. Sheerness. Box 464458 **1**

CARING & PROFESSIONAL Female 49, 5'14, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings. Can George call again with contact details? Box 417100 **1**

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COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HOPEFULLY MORE Curvy & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5'17, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLTW similar loving male. Box 443642 **1**

DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS? Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863 **1**

PERFECT MATCH Mature, attractive lady, fair hair, brown eyes, in good shape, loves travel, theatre, sport, music, seeking the company of a cultured, funny, adventurous male. Maidstone. Box 462273 **1**

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS! Smart petite lady, 56, 5'14, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795 **1**

MAKE A NEW FRIEND Fun-loving lady, 58, 5'14, dark hair, single mum! Likes countryside walks, reading, cooking and cosy nights in, seeks similar male. Folkestone. Box 460420 **1**

LOTS OF HUGS Positive woman, 60, independent but sociable, I'm 5'14, red hair/green eyes, slim build. Hythe, enjoys art and walks, seeking similar, intelligent man, lively, reliable. Box 464002 **1**

WALKS ALONG THE COAST Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622 **1**

MUSIC TO MY EARS Hi my name's Christine, 59, 5'9", slim build, wear glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing darts, looking for slim build male, for friendship, possible more. Box 419914 **1**

BE YOURSELF Outgoing lady, active, 60, tolerant, open-minded, loves life animals, and genuine people, seeks a sincere man for romance. Margate. Box 865760 **1**

BRIGHTENING UP Cuddly lady, 61, 5'15, blonde, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more. WLTW tallish single man to hopefully brighten each others lives. Box 870214 **1**

ONLY LOVE Classy, intelligent, happy, slim, attractive, fit and active lady, 60, gosh, enjoys travel, gardening etc, looking for that special friend to share life with. Box 863791 **1**

SIMPLE PLEASURES Hi there, I'm a 61yr old lady, blonde hair/green eyes, medium build, loves dancing, walking by the sea and WLTW like minded gent. Box 459467 **1**

LOOKING FOR PRINCE CHARMING Pretty, bubbly girl in her 60's love romantic meals, gardens and the arts looking for caring gentlemen. East Sussex. Box 458169 **1**

LOVE ME DO Loving and caring lady, 63, 5'13, brown hair/eyes, likes most things in life, looking for a caring and considerate male for friendship, hopefully a LTR. Margate. Box 460082 **1**

LET'S FALL IN LOVE Lovely female, 65, 5'12, enjoys walking, bird-watching, cinema, theatre and red wine, seeking a male companion to share life with. Box 444763 **1**

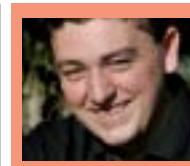
IN THE COUNTRY Young looking 72yr old female, slim, with blonde hair/blue eyes. I'd like to share my social life with like minded gent, likes country pubs. Box 457491 **1**

Women seeking women

LET'S FIND OUT! Hi, I'm a fun-loving, kind, passionate lady, 44, 5'15, with a wicked sense of humour, looking for friendship and what ever evolves from there. Kent. Box 877446 **1**

HOPE YOU'RE OUT THERE? Sincere female, 49, likes football, animals, country pursuits, seeks feminine woman for friendship, maybe more. Gillingham. Box 456805 **1**

TABLE FOR 2? Homely type woman, 50, looking for a similar female. I'm 5'15, tall & peppy hair, I'm honest and trust worthy and looking for the same. Hastings. Box 455737 **1**



MEN seeking women

GUESS WHO? Male, 30, 5'10", in Ashford and looking for the right lady, 30-40, enjoys all the usual things in life: socialising, nights in/out, mountain biking. Box 856418 **1**

HAPPY CHAPPY Hi I'm a happy-go-lucky man, 33, a plumber, enjoys life and everything in it. I'm fit and active, and seeking the same in a woman. Box 452394 **1**

WHAT YOU SEE ID WHAT YOU GET Single dad, 34, 5'17, brown hair/dark eyes. Hoping to meet a nice woman. I'm laid back and wear my heart on my sleeve. Chatham. Box 464419 **1**

INTERESTED? Easygoing, genuine male, 36, 5'10, dark hair, medium build/cuddly, likes cinema, pubs, walks, anything really! Seeks likewise lady who likes a good chat. Chatham. Box 459876 **1**

BOTTLE OF WINE Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5'10, medium build, brown hair. I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165 **1**

AN ATTRACTIVE OFFER Handsome, tall male, 38, 6'4", looking for a young lady to slowly re-discover the finer things in life. Box 454805 **1**

INTERESTED? Shy at first, I'm male, 37, and enjoy gardening, walks, seeking a woman, looks unimportant, 37-56 for loving relationship. Box 463697 **1**

INTERESTED? Genuine male, 39, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5'8", medium build, likes cooking, dining out, quiet holidays, seeking a lovely lady for good company. Ramsgate. Box 463493 **1**

MAKE ME LAUGH Hard working male, 39, kind, GSOH, intelligent, modest! Likes cooking, the countryside & nights out, seeks fun female for relationship. Maidstone. Box 464286 **1**

LOVE TO LAUGH Looking for a dove to earth green eyed lady, must have a sense of humour and laugh at life's little surprises! I'm 39 with GSOH...Hastings. Box 862208 **1**

TO EACH THEIR OWN Romantic male, 40, 6'11, slim build, gosh, 32 waist, brown hair/eyes, enjoys football, pool, DIY, socialising with friends, cinema, seeks female, 35-45, gosh, romantic. Sheerness. Box 463935 **1**

LIFE IS FOR LIVING Divorced male, 40, 5'10", brown hair, blue eyes, likes live music, looking for a fun woman to enjoy life with, to go out for fun. Eastbourne. Box 462094 **1**

SIDE BY SIDE Loving male, 39, loves dogs, blonde hair looking for a partner to help walk them and get some fresh air, enjoy dining out in. Hastings. Box 463717 **1**

SEEKING MY MATCH Single lady, 39, 6'11, dark hair, nice looking, loyal, honest, separated, looking for a loving, honest, fun-loving lady. Eastbourne. Box 458980 **1**

LOOKING FOR A BIRDIE! Hi there, I'm Chris, 38, in good shape, attractive, own place, hard working and honest, loves days out, golf, summer! Looking for loving companion. Box 459317 **1**

FULLY HOUSE TRAINED! Happy-go-lucky divorced single dad, 40, slim/medium build, 6'11, dark hair, love motorcycles, family time, cooking. WLTW female, prefer single mum, to enjoy life with. Polegate. Box 864778 **1**

JUST THE TWO OF US Male, 42, 5'10", tall medium/large muscular fit build, likes dating, bodybuilding, looking for female 30 to 45 for good times. Rochester. Box 862748 **1**

HOW ABOUT TODAY? Looking for love and relationship with nice, genuine woman. I'm male, 42, 5'10, brown hair/blue eyes, enjoys cycling, films, eating in and out. Kent. Box 463958 **1**

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MORE FUN WITH 2 Outgoing, sporty guy, 56, loves outdoor activities and enjoying life to the full. I'm tall, warm hearted and very affectionate and caring. Seaford. Box 862231 **1**

GOOD COMPANIONSHIP Passionate guy, 57, easygoing, likes going to the gym, looking for fun woman for snuggles, cuddles and more. Get in touch! Box 460043 **1**

LIKE IT MOST BY THE COAST! 53yr old male, 6'11, brown hair, blue eyes, own company enjoys coast, countryside, seeks female, 40-60, for true love. Box 782206 **1**

ACTIVE AND ROMANTIC Single, attractive, affectionate male, 61, 5'10", likes walking, swimming, tennis, holidays, works, seeking a slim, cheerful lady to share life with. Bexhill. Box 464042 **1**

HOLD MY HAND Separated male, 61, honest and trust worthy, WLTW lady for walks, trips to seaside, cuddles, and hopefully long term relationship. Box 445934 **1**

LOVE IS THE ANSWER Retired 62yr old male, 6'11, blue eyes, solvent, hobbies include music, films, reading, American comics and football, WLTW a sweet lady for friendship/love. Herne Bay. Box 460106 **1**

A PAIR OF SCAVENGERS Gentle easygoing widower, 65, OHAC, likes music, cycling, non-smoking, social drinker, seeks similar lady to enjoy the coast, boot sales and more with. Ashford. Box 465057 **1**

IN THE STARS Sincere male, 5'10, medium build, 65, likes music, reading seeking a nice, genuine lady, scorpio, virgo, cancer stargazers preferred. Maidstone. Box 460899 **1**

GREAT SENSE OF FUN Caring, sensitive widower, mid 60's, 5'11, slim build, seeking a lady to share dining out, trips out and good times, companionship could lead to more. Maidstone. Box 862041 **1**

A COUNTRY MEAL? 70yr old male, looking for a nice, genuine lady. I live in the Maidstone area, I'm a widower and enjoy walking, camping, country pubs. Box 463961 **1**

GET TOGETHER Single male, slim build, 5'10", 12 stone, seeking a single lady, no ties, 35-50 for a fun relationship. Box 463944 **1**

NATURE SPEAKS Sensitive poet, 70, non smoker, loves nature and long walks, seeks companion



PROPERTY NEWS

Slump increases choice for first-time buyers

FIRST-time buyers are reaping the benefit of the British property slump.

Properties in almost 40 per cent of areas of the UK are now within their price range, a study claimed.

The average first-time buyer property could now be bought by someone on average earnings in 39 per cent of local authority districts, according to the Halifax bank.

The situation is a marked improvement on 2007, when homes in only six per cent of areas could be bought by someone on average earnings.

Potential first-time buyers on average pay would need to have spent about 27 per cent of their disposable income on mortgage payments in November 2009, compared to the 50 per cent they would have had to spend in June 2007.

The improvement in affordability has come through a combination of lower interest rates and house price falls.

But many first-time buyers have been unable to take advantage of the situation, due to tighter lending criteria.

Figures from the Council of Mortgage Lenders show the average person buying their first home with a mortgage put down a deposit of 25 per cent of their property's value for most of 2009.

The average price of a property bought by a first-time buyer was £133,794 in 2009, 10 per cent less than in 2008.

Rents likely to rise as new instructions fall

THE Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) expects to see rent rises in the coming months.

In its residential lettings survey covering the third quarter of 2009, surveyors reported that the number of rental properties coming on to the market fell, for the first time since January 2008.

Optimism over rents has therefore increased for the first time since July 2008, with only 4 per cent of surveyors still reporting falling, rather than rising, rents.

In addition, 22 per cent of respondents expected rents to rise rather than fall in the next three months, as a net balance of 11 per cent of surveyors saw new instructions falling, rather than rising.

The report states: "This is in stark contrast to levels seen late last year when the housing market was still suffering from falling prices and many would-be sellers were turning to the lettings market when their houses failed to sell."



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Estate agents see mixed fortunes for coming year

■ BY NICK AMES

EXPERTS have been looking into their crystal balls to predict the property market's future over the next 12 months, with varying results.

While Hamptons International and Chesterton Humberts expect prices to rise by 3 to 5 per cent and 2 per cent respectively during the course of this year, their fellow estate agent Savills predicts falls of 6.6 per cent.

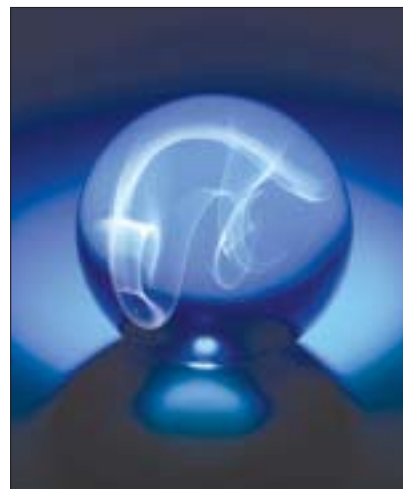
This time last year, the doom and gloom surrounding the property market were unremitting from all quarters, with even estate agents – usually accused of talking up the market – predicting a continuing slide.

However, according to most market analysts, they were proved wrong in many ways.

In most cases, first-time buyers remained shut out of the market by the banks for most of 2009, tumbling mortgage rates meant property ownership became much more affordable for those who already owned – helping keep repossessions below the high levels predicted.

Equally significant was the shortage of property.

Holding out for higher prices, homeowners



have been reluctant to put their houses up for sale, leaving buyers to fight amongst themselves. The inevitable result has been a rising market, where overseas purchasers, lured by the weak pound, have added to the competition.

The Bank of England is an important factor.

Most commentators expect the Bank rate to remain at its record low of 0.5 per cent for a good few months. The next movement must be upwards, even though it could be some years before it returns to the high of 5.75 per cent reached at the peak of the market in the second half of 2007.

Predicting the balance of supply and demand remains more difficult.

Also crucial is what will happen to demand, which could be set back by rising unemployment, the continuing squeeze on incomes and an end to the stamp duty holiday on homes priced from £125,000 to £175,000.

Hometrack, the property data company, reported a 2.2 per cent drop in new-buyer registrations last month – the first such fall since January 2009.

"Rich households could continue to put upward pressure on prices in localised markets in 2010," said Richard Donnell, its director of research.

"However, a sustainable recovery in the housing market needs a broader base of buyers."

Uncertainty ahead of this spring's general election could add to caution.

Whatever the overall figure, there seems little doubt that Kent, London and the rest of the south east will continue to outperform the rest of the country this year, and into 2011 as well.

Protect your home as mercury falls

THE winter months are now upon us and website Confused.com is offering homeowners advice on how homes can be kept warm while temperatures outside are frosty.

Freezing conditions can burst pipes, along with heavy gusts of wind which can damage buildings and roofs.

Snowfall can also spell travelling trouble for those needing to get from A to B. All elements can result in problems for people who are caught unaware of a frosty mother nature.

Darren Black, head of home insurance at Confused.com said: "Winter is the time when all homeowners want to have nice cosy homes for some respite from the cold."

"In order to create this warm, safe haven, essential checks need to be carried out. Prevention is certainly better than cure when it comes to an emergency in the home, so people need to clear out guttering, lag pipes and wrap up any outside taps."

Advice from Confused.com which will help minimise home disasters includes:

- Clear the guttering and drain pipes of any leaves and debris. This will reduce the risk of blockages occurring.
- Cut back trees and large hedges which could cause damage if they are blown down.



- Wrap up outside taps with material which will act as a jacket from the cold.
- Chimneys should be swept regularly.
- Make sure that your loft is insulated, preventing valuable heat from escaping
- If you are leaving the home for a while, do not switch the heating off. If you turn thermostats down in a frost, pipes will burst resulting in water damage

- Make sure your boiler is serviced on a regular basis. As winter puts strains on them, checks need to be done to ensure they can cope under the additional heating pressure.
- When the heating is switched on, carbon monoxide detectors are a good idea. These will alert you to any dangerous levels of the chemical within the home. In order to avoid such a leak, regular boiler checks are essential.

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Semi Detached House, Three Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, 20ft x 19ft Garage, Gardens To Front & Rear, Convenient Location



Ramsgate £165,000

Detached Bungalow, Three Bedrooms, No Onwards Chain, Popular Location, Gardens To Front & Rear, Garage Plus Driveway



Margate £174,995

Double Storey Extended Home, Semi Detached, Three Bedrooms, Garage Plus Driveway, Convenient Location, Must Be Viewed



Margate £177,500

End Of Terrace House, Four Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Convenient Location, Garden To Rear, Viewing Essential



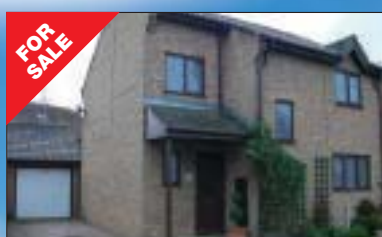
Ramsgate £195,000

Detached Bungalow, Two Bedrooms, Immaculate Order, Garage Plus Driveway, Fitted Kitchen, Quiet Residential Cul-De-Sac



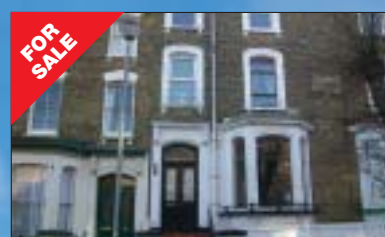
Margate £199,995

Semi Detached House, Three Double Bedrooms, Bathroom + Shower Room, Large Conservatory, Off Street Parking, No Onwards Chain



Broadstairs -£245,000

Modern Detached Home, Four Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Garage Plus Driveway, Within School Catchments, Viewing Crucial



Ramsgate £249,995

Terraced Period House, Five bedrooms, Three Reception Rooms, Original Character Features, Distant/Partial Sea Views, Viewing Highly



Ramsgate £275,000

Detached Bungalow, Four Bedrooms, Secluded Gardens, Tandem Garage, Bathroom + Shower Room, Desirable Location



Palm Bay £299,995

Detached Bungalow, Five Bedrooms, Two En-Suite Bathrooms, Approx 90ft Depth Rear Garden, Off Street Parking, 200 Yards From Seafront, Viewing Essential



Ramsgate £299,995

Detached House, Three Bedrooms, Excellent Order Throughout, 200 Yards From Clifftop Walks, Off Street Parking, Desirable Location



Broadstairs £319,995

Detached Bungalow, Five Bedrooms, Two Bathrooms, Highly Sought After Location, Garage Plus Driveway, Sea View From Rear Garden

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RAMSGATE £315,000

- 6 Bedroom Victorian Residence
- Garden & Garage
- 3 Bathrooms & Conservatory



BIRCHINGTON £550,000

- Four Beds & Three Receptions
- 2 Balconies, Panoramic Sea Views
- 180' plot, OSP & Garage



CLIFTONVILLE £385,000

- Five bedrooms
- Highly sought after location
- Rear garden in excess of 120'



BROADSTAIRS £325,000

- 3/4 Bed Detached
- Superb Gardens
- Must Be Seen!



WESTBROOK £525,000

- 4 Bed Detached, Sea Front Location
- Substantial Conservatory
- Heated Swimming Pool



RAMSGATE £164,995

- Large 4/5 Bedroom
- Versatile Accommodation
- Modernisation Required



RAMSGATE £215,000

- 1820's Georgian Terrace
- Modernisation Required
- 5 Bed, 3 Receptions



RAMSGATE £164,995

- 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Off Street Parking & Garden
- Convenient for Town & Station



RAMSGATE £169,995

- Extended 3 Bed Semi
- Off Street Parking
- 2 Receptions plus kitchen/Diner



RAMSGATE 169,995

- Extended 3 Bedroom Semi
- Conservatory & En-Suite
- Driveway & Conservatory



BIRCHINGTON £285,000

- Three Bedroom Detached Home
- Sought After Cul-De-Sac Setting
- Open Sea Views over Epple Bay



BIRCHINGTON £227,500

- Four Bedrooms & EnSuite
- Semi-Detached + OSP + Garage
- NHBC Guaranteed



BIRCHINGTON £79,995

- One Bedroom Apartment
- Walking Distance to Beach+Station
- Off Street Parking to Rear

our sales are up

98%

SOLD

S.T.C.
Source: net sales figures from
Miles & Barr Thanet comparing
Apr-June '08 to Apr-June '09

BIRCHINGTON £110,000

- Two Double Bedroom Apartment
- Ground Floor, Self Contained
- Approx 30'x25' Rear Garden



BIRCHINGTON £144,995

- Quaint & Charming Cottage
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Sought After Location



MARGATE £295,000

- Six Double Bedrooms
- 23'2" x 17'8" Lounge
- Sea Views



MARGATE £209,995

- 4/5 Bedroom Period Home
- Immaculate Throughout
- Off Street Parking



MARGATE £214,995

- Family Home on a Corner Plot
- 4 Beds, 3 Receptions
- Packed with Original Features!!



MARGATE £124,995

- Spacious 3 Bed Semi
- Great Family Home
- All Offers Considered



CLIFTONVILLE £109,995

- 2 bedroom flat
- Modernisation required
- No Forward Chain



MARGATE £32,000

- Investment opportunity
- 4 garages
- Ideal location



MARGATE £99,995

- 2 bed, purpose built flat
- Ideal BTL
- No Forward Chain



MARGATE £109,995

- 2 Bed, Mid-Terrace House
- Good Size Rear Garden !!
- No Forward Chain !!



MARGATE £124,995

- Spacious living accommodation
- 3 beds, 2 rec, 1 bath
- Ideal family home



MARGATE £229,995

- 5 bed, substantial detached house
- Garage, OSP
- Close to local amenities



BROADSTAIRS £224,995

- Rarely Available
- 2 beds, Good Size Rooms
- Low Maintenance Gardens



BROADSTAIRS £239,995

- 3/4 Bedrooms, 2/3 Receptions
- Period Features, Cellar Rooms
- Off Street Parking to the rear



CLIFTONVILLE £99,995

- 1 Bedroom Purpose Built Apartment
- Sought After Location, O/S/P
- NO CHAIN!



BROADSTAIRS £229,995

- Contemporary Living, No Chain
- 3 bedrooms, Master En Suite
- Allocated Parking, Kitchen



WESTGATE-ON-SEA £219,995

- Substantially Extended Home
- 4 Beds, Conservatory
- No Forward Chain

RAMSGATE
t 01843 570 500CLIFTONVILLE
t 01843 231 222WESTGATE
t 01843 836 655

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BROADSTAIRS £595,000

- Executive 4/5 bed home
- Highly Spec'd, Balcony with Sea Views
- NO CHAIN KEYS AVAILABLE



NETHERCOURT £175,000

- The Ultimate in Bungalows
- High standards throughout
- Needs to be viewed



WESTBROOK £194,995

- Stunning 6 bed period home
- Close to seafront, shops &
- all amenities CHAIN FREE!



BROADSTAIRS £329,995

- 4 Bed Detached, En-Suite
- Large Family Conservatory
- Prime Broadstairs Location



RAMSGATE £259,995

- Five bedrooms
- Two receptions rooms
- Popular location



WESTBROOK £299,995

- Four Bedroom Detached
- Sudg, Gfch, Osp & Garage
- 2 Receptions



WESTGATE-ON-SEA £145,000

- No Forward Chain
- Lovingly Renovated Throughout
- 2 Bedrooms & Bathroom



WESTGATE-ON-SEA £169,995

- Lovingly Renovated Home
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Modern Kitchen & Bathroom



WESTGATE-ON-SEA £329,995

- No Forward Chain
- 4 Beds & 3 Receptions
- Umbermaster Kitchen



BROADSTAIRS £270,000

- Detached luxury
- 3 beds, 17' lounge
- Immaculate throughout



BROADSTAIRS £109,995

- One bedroom ground floor
- Sea views
- Allocated parking



BROADSTAIRS £240,000

- No chain ahead
- 3 bedrooms, open plan lounge
- Garage and gardens



BROADSTAIRS £215,000

- Spacious 4 Bed Character Home
- 2 Receptions & Kit/Brk Room
- Garage and Gardens

In Thanet we agree
at least 1 sale every

24hrs

SOLD

S.T.C.
Source: averaged out from
sales agreed in Thanet for
April '09 - June '09

BROADSTAIRS £255,000

- Exclusive Chessboard
- 2 bed, 20' lounge & Conserv
- 60' rear garden & garage



PEGWELL £109,995

- 2 bed balcony apartment
- Beautiful area
- No Chain



RAMSGATE £124,995

- At last, a cottage in Pegwell!
- Ideal Holiday home or FTB
- very sought after



MINSTER £134,995

- Stunning Ground Floor Flat
- Heart of the Village, 2 Beds
- Large Gds + OSP



RAMSGATE £185,000

- An Attractive Bungalow
- Approx 200ft Gardens
- Large Drive To The Garage



MONKTON £189,950

- 3 bed chalet
- In a quiet Cul de Sac
- large gardens



MARGATE £123,500

- Deceptive Two double bedrooms
- Quiet location
- Good decorative order throughout



GARLINGS £144,995

- Three Bedroom Family Home
- Off Street Parking to Front
- CHAIN FREE!



MARGATE £129,995

- Two bed ground floor luxury apt
- High spec modern fitted kitchen
- It's own private gardens



MARGATE £59,995

- Spacious Two bedroom apartment
- Stunning sea views
- Off Street Parking



CLIFTONVILLE £189,995

- Six Bedroom Semi
- Sought After Location
- Chain Free!



RAMSGATE £61,500

- 1 Bedroom Purpose Built
- Ground Floor, Private Entrance
- Gas Heating & Double Glazed



RAMSGATE £134,995

- Charming 2 Bedroom Terrace
- Lovely Condition & Character
- Prime Location



RAMSGATE £185,000

- Detached corner plot bungalow
- Garage, conservatory & gardens
- Good order throughout & no chain



RAMSGATE £229,995

- 3 Bed Extended Quality
- Popular Location
- Immaculate Inside & Out



RAMSGATE £249,995

- Ramsgate
- Investment Opportunity
- Currently run as a HMO



RAMSGATE £164,995

- Two Bedroom cottage
- Recently refurbished
- Secluded locations



RAMSGATE £117,500

- Two bedrooms
- No chain
- Allocated parking

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Westgate on Sea £164,995

- Brand New House
- 3 Bedroom Terrace
- Parking & Garden
- 10 Year NHBC Guarantee



Birchington £169,950

- 2 Bedroom Bungalow
- Conservatory
- South Facing Garden & Off Road Parking
- Lovely Cul De Sac Location



Sarre £147,500

- 2 Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Bathroom & En-Suite
- Private Patio & Communal Garden
- Allocated & Guest Parking



Broadstairs £174,950

- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
- 2 Reception Rooms & Conservatory
- Garden & Garage
- Planning Approved For Fourth Bedroom & Ensuite



Garlinge £174,995

- 2 Bedroom Detached House
- Approx 3/4 of an Acre of Land
- Private Parking
- Needs Updating



Monkton £214,995

- 3 Bedroom Period Property
- Modern Kitchen & Bathroom
- Ensuite To Master Bedroom
- Gardens & Garage



Westbrook Border £239,995

- 4 Bedroom Semi Detached House
- 3/4 Reception Areas
- Large Garden & Drive
- A Very Impressive Property



Broadstairs £239,995

- 4 Bedroom Semi Detached House
- 2 Reception Rooms & Conservatory
- Approx 110ft Rear Garden & Tandem Garage
- Highly Sought After Location



Westbrook £265,000

- 4 Bedroom Semi Detached House
- 2 Separate Reception Rooms
- Modern Kitchen & Bathroom
- Approximate 200ft rear garden



Westgate £265,000

- 6 Bedroom Terrace House
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Contemporary Kitchen
- Superb Decorative Order



Broadstairs £345,000

- 4 Bedroom Detached House
- 2 Reception Rooms & Large Conservatory
- Kitchen & Utility Room
- Garage & Off-Road Parking



Westbrook £207,000

- 3 Double Bedroom Top Floor Apartment
- 3 Bath/Shower Rooms
- Stunning Sea Views
- NHBC Warranty



Westbrook £174,950

- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Ground Floor Extension
- Approx 75ft South Facing Garden
- Quiet Cul-De-Sac Location



Westgate £129,995

- Ground Floor Apartment
- 2 Bedrooms
- 100 Meters From Beach
- Completely Refurbished



Westgate £157,500

- 3/4 Bedroom Terrace
- Off-Road Parking
- Approx 30ft Garden
- Great Location Close to the Sea



Westgate £169,995

- Brand New House
- 3 Bedroom End of Terrace
- Parking & Garden
- 10 Year NHBC Guarantee



Minster £225,000

- 3/4 Bedroom Chalet Bungalow
- Modern Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Garden & Parking
- Views Overlooking Farmland



Minnis Bay £430,000

- 4 Bed Detached House
- 2/3 Reception Rooms
- An Abundance of Character
- Highly Sought After Location



Westgate £149,950

- 2 Double Bedroom 1st Floor Apartment
- Ensuite & Bathroom
- Gated Entrance & Allocated Parking
- Excellent Order Throughout



Margate £125,000

- Spacious 2 Bedroom House
- DG Windows & GFCH
- Long Garden / Parking to Rear
- Vacant Possession

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Ramsgate | £340,000 - £380,000

- Good Size Detached Family Home
- 4 Bedrooms, 2 Reception Rooms,
- South facing Garden and Garage

RAMSGATE OFFICE | 01843 580314



Broadstairs | £300,000 - £340,000

- Period 1930's 3 Bedroom Detached House
- Off Road Parking, central heating, double glazing
- Conservatory and Utility Room

BROADSTAIRS OFFICE | 01843 602546



Broadstairs | £230,000 - £260,000

- 3 Bedroom Period Semi-Detached Family Home
- Extended Kitchen, Utility Conservatory,
- Off Road Parking

BROADSTAIRS OFFICE | 01843 602546



Westbrook | £260,000 - £290,000

- 6 bedroom detached residence, 4 reception rooms
- Modern style kitchen, many period features
- High ceilings, feature fireplaces

BIRCHINGTON OFFICE | 01843 842551

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Don't they
ever close,
Geraldine!



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Cliftonville | £230,000 - £255,000

- A delightful 3 bedroom family home
- 2 Reception rooms & conservatory
- Good condition throughout

CLIFTONVILLE OFFICE | 01843 227447



Westbrook | £210,000 - £230,000

- Three bedroom detached bungalow
- 1 reception room, garage, off road parking
- Conservatory & rear garden

BIRCHINGTON OFFICE | 01843 842551



Cliftonville | £210,000 - £235,000

- Impressive & versatile home,
- 3 Beds, lounge/diner, conservatory,
- gardens, impressive room sizes

CLIFTONVILLE OFFICE | 01843 227447



Ramsgate | £185,000 - £205,000

- 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow
- Popular Pegwell Village Location
- Off Road Parking, Gardens & Conservatory

RAMSGATE OFFICE | 01843 580314



Ramsgate | £137,500 - £152,500

- 2 Bed Semi-detached Chalet style Home
- Well presented, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner
- "Jack-n-Jill" En-suite to both Bedrooms

RAMSGATE OFFICE | 01843 580314



Birchington: 01843 842551

Cliftonville: 01843 227447

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MOTORS NEWS



Cult of 500 helps sales reach a five-year high

FIAT has shown the strength of its recovery in the UK by posting its best sales in five years, despite the recession.

The Italian brand, buoyed by more than 24,000 sales of its Fiat 500 retro cult car, registered 60,337 cars here last year, compared with 55,325 in 2008.

It also reported healthy sales for its Alfa Romeo and newly re-launched Abarth sporting brands and impressive rises in secondhand valuations: those for the Grande Punto supermini and Panda city car both rose around a quarter.



Mazda targets private sector to keep growth

KENT-based Mazda UK finished 2009 as the only major car marque to record eight consecutive years of market growth – its 2.4 per cent share topped its 2008 record.

The 48,000 sales were also ahead of those forecast, helped by 17,000 sales of the Mazda2 supermini – the most successful Mazda line ever in this country.

Mazda UK MD Jeremy Thomson said such a record in tough times was a tribute to its dealers and a strategy of concentrating on private sales.



Aveo joins Chevy style brigade with new look

CHEVROLET, having just opened order books for the aptly named Spark city car, has shown how it will apply similarly sharp styling to the next generation Aveo supermini.

This is the sporty teaser unveiled at the Detroit motor show; it is longer, wider and more spacious than the current production Aveo – due for the chop in 2011. Chevrolet Europe chief Wayne Brannon said: "The new Aveo will be completely in tune with the striking new Cruze and Spark."



TOP MARQUE: Volkswagen's new Polo recently scooped the European Car of the Year for 2010, beating off stiff competition from Toyota's innovative IQ and the Vauxhall Astra

Polo has perfect timing to match current mood

VOLKSWAGEN'S smart new Polo brought the European Car of the Year to the German marque for first time since the Golf Mk III's 1992 COTY win.

It also pipped strong challenges for the 2010 gong from the innovative Toyota IQ city car and powerful new Vauxhall Astra.

This fifth generation car – I'm discounting some dodgy facelifts sometimes touted as 'new' models – is classier, lighter and roomier to match the modern supermini trend; you can happily downsize and economise with this after giving up something larger.

Styling echoes the latest Golf and VW's reborn Scirocco and yet it rightly lacks the visual verve of the latest Ford Fiesta.

For it may be a small car – though looking about the same size as the original Golf – but the Polo has always been something of a premium buy and ought to be more reserved.

A seemingly rock solid interior is well-arranged and uses high quality soft touch plastics and well designed seats. Easy fold-flat rear seats allow for extra large cargoes and

ROAD TEST VW POLO

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

there is ample stowage around the car.

Any lingering qualms about chopping an older and bigger motor for this three or five-door baby are then finally banished by a tidy drive, plus a ride quality and refinement that really would not disgrace a car two sizes bigger.

Some of this is undone by the buzzy little 70PS (69bhp) three-cylinder petrol unit in our Polo 1.2-litre SE five-door test car (£11,995), but I don't dislike this engine; steady cruising is no problem and the crisp gearshift and sure-footed handling make it entertaining on quieter roads. And despite VW championing of the diesel cause generally, 83 per cent of new Polo sales are expected to be petrol.

Even with a five-speed gearbox, the test car can average around 50mpg and is a relatively low emitter (128g/km CO₂), though still incurring annual road tax of £120 against the £35 of its current 1.6-litre diesel equivalents and tax exemption for the forthcoming BlueMotion eco model.

The diesel can also average around 65mpg, but the petrol versus diesel choice is much harder than before, especially when you can get into a petrol Polo for as little as £9,435 – diesel entry price is an astonishing £12,605.



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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

4x4 ON THE CHEAP

SOARING fuel and tax costs, plus the economic downturn, have clobbered second-hand values for big thirsty 4x4s, but the redefined market has firmed up prices on smaller 'rough and tough' drives. Fact is some people who bought 4x4s originally, have become used to the extra grip and higher driving position even if they don't tend to seek out serious off-roading. So, forced to sell their bigger 4x4s, many may be looking to downsize to budget all-wheel-drive alternatives although these are not without their drawbacks – including less space.

FIAT PANDA 4x4



MAYBE not quite the typical 'butch' 4x4, but the Panda makes a surprisingly tough little customer for urban and rural users, thanks to under body protection and greater ride height. Despite Fiat's past reputation for poor reliability, the Panda has also proved itself as dependable as it is practical thanks to the boxy yet stylish five-door city car body. In sharp contradiction to the 'gas guzzling' image of 4x4s, the Fiat's 1.2-litre petrol engine should average more than 40mpg too.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

SUZUKI JIMNY



PRETTY it ain't, but the Jimny has long been pretty much the cheapest 'proper' off-roader on the UK market. If you really do need cut-price 4x4 clout in challenging conditions then this is the car. However, that ability brings penalties; the Jimny is rather bouncy, primitive and crude on-road so it is not a 4x4 to buy for image-conscious town dwellers, but the car is frugal, cheap to run and prices are sensible for a reliable and durable little 4x4.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

DAIHATSU TERIOS



THIS is really a tale of two cars. The original Terios was reasonably capable off-road, but on-road refinement was poor even if the car's reliability has proved to be bulletproof and it makes a good used buy. The new version, launched in 2006, has far better ability in both departments, but is probably still too young to be found in numbers on the used market. Power is exclusively petrol in both cases, but they are reasonably economical and low emission.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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A3 SPORTBACK, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior load liner power steering satellite navigation traction control remote central locking, black / black, 45800 miles, £15295, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A6, TVE SE, 2005, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloy wheels central locking climate control cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid trip computer curtain airbags front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking, metallic quartz grey, 77512 miles, £3900, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

TT, 225, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering single cd player tinted glass traction control trip computer twin airbags curtain airbags remote central locking, silver, 55213 miles, £10000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BMW

1 SERIES, 116 ES, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, blue, 21509 miles, £10000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 525d SE, In52 syz, air con, climate control, power steering, abs, remote central locking, remote alarm, front fog lamps, parking sensor, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, centre armrest, electric windows, electric mirrors, multi-function steering wheel, cruise control, adjustable steering column, traction control, twin air bags, side air bags, curtain airbags, stereo, alloy wheels, blue, 111500 miles, £5495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

M6, CONV AUTO SAT NAV, only 16125 miles, just been serviced at stephen james bmw, smg gearbox, tracker, sat nav, heads up display, silverstone merino leather, paddle shift, m sport button, heated seats, electric lumbar support, sport exhaust system, manufacturers service history, upgraded alloys, xenon headlamps, rain sensitive windscreen, headlamp washer package, cd player, aerosport spoilers, dynamic stability control, abs, adjustable steering column, air con, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, c.b.c, clear lenses, climate control, cruise control, drivers central armrest, electric memory seats, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, front fog-lights, full motor-sports bodykit, fully colour coded, immobiliser, motorsport front & rear spoilers, m-tech steering wheel & gear lever, multi airbag system, multi function steering wheel, on board computer, pas, power roof, remote key central locking, reverse parking distance control, sports suspension, silverstone ii, £53994, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

X3, 2.0i M SPORT SAT NAV, electric seats, only 57685 miles, sat nav, bmw assist, bluetooth and telematics, black leather, manufacturers service history, upgraded alloys, cd player, aerosport spoilers, dynamic stability control, downhill descent, abs, adjustable steering column, air con, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, climate control, cruise control, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, front fog-lights, full child safety window lock, full motor-sports bodykit, fully colour coded, high level rear brake light, immobiliser, motorsport front & rear spoilers, m-tech steering wheel & gear lever, multi airbag system, multi function steering wheel, on board computer, pas, rear headrests, rear spoiler, remote key central locking, roof rails, sports seats with under-thigh support, sports suspension, third point seat belt, tonneau cover, titanium silver, £14489, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

Z3, Cabriolet Roadster, 1998, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer, silver, 68951 miles, £4000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

Z4, 3.2, 2007, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering sports seats remote central locking, black, 28137 miles, £20500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

AVEO, Lt 5dr, eo58yhh, abs, air bag, side air bags, immobiliser, central locking, power steering, air conditioning, electric front windows, trip computer, cd player, rear wash/wipe, front fog lamps, automatic electric windows, radio, mp3 player, child locks, cloth upholstery, isofix, power steering, air conditioning, 15" alloys, space saver spare wheel, side window demist vents, body coloured door mirrors, roof spoiler, 15" alloy wheels, lidded glovebox, black finish on b pillars, passenger seat back pocket, adjustable headrests, front cupholders, 60/40 split folding rear seat, leather steering wheel, tiltable steering column, front seatbelt pretensioners, height adjustable front seatbelts, headlamp levelling, 3 point rear seatbelts x3, remote fuel cap release, height adjustable driver's seat, body colour door handles, front door pockets, door courtesy lamps, 6 speakers, variable intermittent front wash/wipe, driver/passenger sunvisors and vanity mirrors, tinted glass all round, driver sunglasses holder, electrically adjustable and heated door mirrors, body coloured bumpers, black interior trim, steering wheel mounted audio controls, aluminium silver, 999 miles, £7995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

AVEO, Lt, 54314, 15" alloys, blue, 1800 miles, £7995, Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

KALOS, SX 5dr, sm08kxt, central locking, air conditioning, electric windows, power steering, aluminium silver, 6000 miles, £6495, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

TACUMA, 1.6, 2008, green, 50 miles, £7985, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

CROSSFIRE, V6, air con, full leather, electric seats, heated seats, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, power steering, height adjustable seat, twin air bags, side air bags, abs, auto-dip rearview, cruise control, adjustable steering column, cd player, radio, front fog lamps, rear spoiler, alloy wheels, blue, 60100 miles, £7495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

SEBRING, Limited, remote central locking, immobiliser, full leather, power steering, abs, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, cd, air con, electric windows, stability control, cruise control, multiple airbags, isofix, heated seats, height adjustable seat, electric seats, front fog lamps, powered folding mirrors, 18" alloys, black, 26000 miles, £8999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

DAIHATSU

CHARADE, 12v 5dr, hw06hno, abs, air bag, immobiliser, central locking, power steering, air con, electric front windows, adjustable steering column, automatic electric windows, radio, child locks, cloth upholstery, central locking, laminated windscreen, height adjustable headlamps, electronic brake force distribution, high level third brake light, electrically adjustable door mirrors, centre console with cupholders, space saver spare wheel, tachometer, digital clock, energy absorbing steering column, air recirculation system, passenger assist handles, side window demist vents, internal tailgate release, ashtray, dipping rear view mirror, fuel gauge, trip odometer, speedometer, ignition key in warning chime, 3 spoke steering wheel, driver/passenger sunvisors and vanity mirrors, sports suspension, mudflaps front and rear, front seatbelt force limiters, 13" steel wheels, interior courtesy light operated by door switches, side impact beams, glovebox, adjustable face lev, ventilation, front door pockets, colour keyed bumpers, 2 speed/intermittent/ electric front wipers, air blend/heating /ventilation/4 speed fan, map reading lamp, internal fuel flap release, chrome interior door handles, temperature gauge, central roof mounted aerial, impact release system, front seatback pocket, 2 door speakers, 3 point height adj front seatbelts + pretensioners, sports seat trim, dome type cabin light, aluminium silver, 12000 miles, £4995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

SIRION, SE 5dr, pn56ujg, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, air conditioning, electric windows, abs, multiple airbags, blue, 28000 miles, £5995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, 1.4 Sport 3dr Hatch, wn58wcy, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, front fog lights, radio/cd, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, drivers airbag, space saver spare wheel, isofix child seat anchor points, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable drivers seat, sports seats, traction control, tropicallia yellow, 15 miles, £10995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

BRAVO, active, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player tinted glass twin airbags, white, 49000 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

DOBLO CARGO, 2007, cd player diesel drivers airbag immobiliser single cd player trip computer steel bulkhead twin sliding doors, white over 4000 cars in group stock, 15 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, alloys, trip computer, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, folding rear seats, service indicator, full size spare wheel, immobiliser, isofix child seat anchor points, rear armrest, 3x3 point rear seat belts, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable drivers seat, rear wiper, cloth seat trim, front head restraints, crossover black metallic, 26950 miles, £6996, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

IMULIPLA, 2.0, 2008, grey, 50 miles, £15000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MULTIPLA, ELEGANZA 1.9JTD, 2004, abs brakes air con alloys cd player central locking climate control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats tinted glass traction control trip computer twin airbags curtain airbags front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking dual passenger seat, blue, 72630 miles, £5000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

PANDA 4X4, 4X4, 2005, 4x4 abs brakes alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering twin airbags, breakbeat grey, 16025 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.2 ACTIVE, 2003, central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering tonneau cover twin airbags front passenger, red, 62942 miles, £2500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

QUO, Dynamic, 2009, abs brakes air con alloys cd central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, metallic green, 3000 miles, £12000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

HONDA

ACCORD, i-CTDI EX, 2007, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys cd central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior left hand drive multiple airbags power fold mirrors power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation sunroof, silver, 79797 miles, £9500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC, i-VTEC SE, 2005, abs brakes air con alloys automatic transmission central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, satin silver, 23251 miles, £6500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC, Type R, 2005, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys cd electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking, grey, 46642 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

HR-V, ESTATE 3DR, 2000, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering twin airbags, silver, 42000 miles, £3000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

S-TYPE, V6 SE Auto, 2005, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys automatic central locking climate control electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid sat nav, red, 35684 miles, £13500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

XF, V6 S Luxury, 2010, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys automatic cd central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid sat nav, green, 2652 miles, £33000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

KIA

PICANTO, 5, insurance group 3 abs air con alarm body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electric door mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows passenger airbag power steering radio/cd rear electric windows remote central locking galaxy black, 24000 miles, £4495, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

SPORTAGE, 2.0 CRDi XS, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows half leather trim immobiliser, silver, 55 miles, £18310, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 1.6, 2004, abs brakes alloys cd central locking airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering cd tonneau cover remote central locking, black, 45412 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

ONE, 1.6, 2004, abs brakes electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags remote central locking, indi blue, 41000 miles, £6500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

SKODA

FABIA, 1.2 classic, 2007, abs brakes immobiliser power steering twin airbags, blue, 21000 miles, £4500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

OCTAVIA, 2.0 FSI Ambiente, 2005, abs brakes alarm cd electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking, silver, 22000 miles, £6500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)



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Senior & General Appointments 49-52

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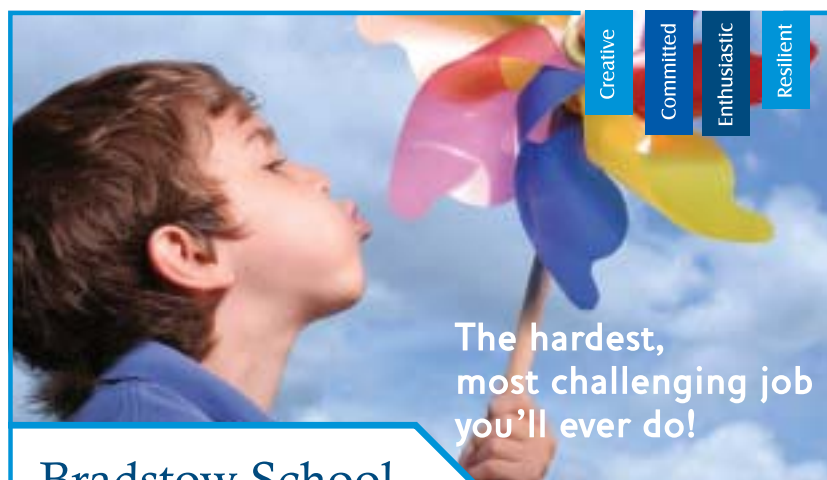
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Working as part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends.

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For an application form and information pack please call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine), or email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

Applications should be received no later than 12 noon, Friday 22nd January 2010.



www.bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

Office Assistant

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KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

You will be the first point of contact to all callers, visitors and Service Users at KCA's Thanet office in Margate. Confident in handling enquiries about the service whether by telephone, email, post or in person, you will ensure that enquiries are dealt with promptly, efficiently and courteously.

Offering support to the Administrator, you will have top MS Office skills and a 'can do' approach. You will be able to communicate with a wide cross-section of staff and external contacts in a highly professional manner. You need to be able to prioritise, work to tight deadlines and respond appropriately to referrals.

If you would like to discuss this post further, please contact Sue Hamilton, Service Manager KCA Thanet on 01843 298355 ex. 217 or Christine Gordon, Admin Lead on 01795 590795 ex. 2.

Closing date: Wednesday 20 January 2010.

Interview date: Wednesday 27 January 2010.

Application form and job description can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 635.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 292824

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Our recent OFSTED Inspection described the College as 'good' overall with 'outstanding' capacity to improve. We would like to accelerate our improvement agenda by seconding individuals who will relish the chance to undertake a specific improvement project within the College in areas such as A levels, Skills for Life, Construction, Engineering, Teaching and Learning. Whether you are already in FE, working in a school or Sixth Form College, or working elsewhere in education, this is an ideal opportunity to develop your skills in a supportive environment working alongside some high quality senior leaders.

We particularly welcome applications from underrepresented groups and will meet reasonable living expenses for staff who live outside the area.

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If it's time for you to enjoy the rewards you deserve please write enclosing an application form, quoting reference SVS356/KOS to Mark Mear, Group Director of Sales, c/o Human Resources Department, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or email: human.resources@saga.co.uk Please call 01303 774888 for an application form or download one from our website.

Closing date: 29 January 2010.

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deadline: 25/02/2010

MOMENTS FOSTERING LIMITED

Vacancies: 2 Social Workers

We are currently recruiting a full time senior supervising social worker to run our support team in the Whitstable office, we are also looking for a supervising social worker to work alongside them. The positions main roles will be supporting and supervising our foster carers and to undertake social work tasks within the agency. The agency offers the chance to:

- To be part of a close and supportive team striving for a high level of care for Looked After Children and our carers
- To receive a competitive salary in line with the applicants experience and qualifications

If either post interests you, we would like to hear from you! Please send us your CV's or call for a chat!

Daniel Croft Email:daniel@momentsfostering.co.uk
Moments Fostering Limited, Holme Lodge Farm
Pean Hill, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3AY Tel: 01227 479444 Fax: 01227 479555

01227 479444

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The successful candidate will be well organized, pay attention to detail and possess good accounting skills and IT knowledge, particularly Excel.

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Applications in writing please with detailed CV, giving a brief summary of previous experience, to Mr Les Knight at Pomphrey of Sittingbourne Ltd, London Road, Bapchild, Kent ME9 9AQ or by email to les.knight@pomphreys.co.uk

Raising Your Game - Big Lottery 5 year project

Raising Your Game is a £4.9 million Lottery-Funded project delivered in partnership by Mencap, Nacro and Ican and will run between November 2009 and November 2014. It will be delivered in six pilot areas across England, including East Kent, and will work with all young people with learning disabilities between the ages of 14 and 25, including those who are at risk of, or are, currently offending to develop innovative ways of fully participating in their lives and services.

The post will be based in East Kent.

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Picture ADY KERRY



GOOD LUCK! Rob Key hopes to keep injuries at bay for Kent to compete

Bowlers unit staying fit will be key for us, says Key

CRICKET

KEEPING players fit for the whole summer is going to be integral if Kent are going to compete in the top tier of English cricket, according to skipper Rob Key.

Kent return to Division One of the County Championship this season with a settled but small playing squad, which means injuries to key players could have a major impact.

The club were without arguably their best fast bowler in Robbie Joseph for the majority of last season, which put extra strain on the bowling attack. However, he has had successful shoulder surgery and is expected to be fit for the start of the season, while the addition of Australian Stuart Clark will help bolster the attack, together with another new seamer expected to sign shortly.

Keeping his bowling attack fit and firing is essential to Key, who expects his side to be challenging for honours this summer.

"On paper our top 11 is as good as any around, but obviously Durham are the stand-out side with people like Steve Harmison in their side," he said. "If we have Simon Cook, Amjad Khan, Joseph and Clark, that's a very good attack. You need a bit of luck to keep them fit, and the problem is if they aren't fit we have a couple of young guys coming in that have potential, but they are where they are because they still have a lot to learn, so ideally you want to go in

with your full-strength attack. This year we can't be naïve – history's told us we can't always do that."

The club captain has already forged a good working relationship with new head coach Paul Farbrace and the pair are looking for the younger players to step up and cement their place in the side.

Key said: "It's going to take a lot of luck as it always does, but the good thing is we have a couple of young guys coming through. Sam Northeast – there is going to be a lot of opportunities for him, Alex Blake as well, so we are starting to see that we are strengthening not only by signing players, but the young players coming through."

"The bowling side of the things is the only place where we need to add to the side, really."



PARTICIPATION: Girls' football is on the rise

Football is still No 1 across the county

PARTICIPATION in football has increased across the board this season, according to encouraging statistics released by the Kent County Football Association (KCFA).

Figures show there are more youth players, disabled players and referees involved in the game on a regular basis than last season. It means the sport remains the most popular in the county, with 46,000 people competing every week – an increase of more than five per cent.

Paul Dolan, KCFA development manager, outlined the body's role in promoting the grass-roots game which they argue makes an important vital contribution towards building stronger communities, improving health, reducing crime and tackling obesity.

He said: "The KCFA services the needs of the football community by putting in place a new generation of modern footballing facilities, increasing and widening participation levels, raising standards within affiliated clubs and investing in the football workforce by providing quality education courses to administrators, coaches and referees."

The biggest rise was among young players. There are 175 more mini-soccer and youth football teams in Kent this season. It equates to 2,500 more players compared with last year, which is ahead of the KCFA's target to get more children involved. The increase includes 23 more youth female teams and 16 new disabled sides.

As well as the desire to attract more players to the sport, the Football Association has prioritised referees through its Respect programme. This year there are an extra 21 male and five female referees qualified to officiate at Kent matches. It takes the overall figure of registered referees in the county above 1,100.

The next priorities are to increase the number of mini-soccer and youth teams playing in FA Charter Standard Clubs and to gain two new FA Charter Standard Leagues.

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Kent express their interest in offering Clark return deal

CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

TALKS are already under way with seam bowler Stuart Clark about coming back next year after the Australian signed as Kent's overseas player for the first half of the summer.

The county offered the 34-year-old a short-term contract before Christmas, which was exclusively revealed on our website, which he got around to signing last week after getting the go-ahead from Cricket Australia.

The Australian right-arm seam bowler, who has 94 wickets from 24 Test matches for his country, has shrugged off a back injury that has kept him out of action for New South Wales of late and will be available to play for Kent as they prepare for their return to Division One of the County Championship.

The club's head coach, Paul Farbrace, also revealed to this newspaper that discussions have already begun with Clark about a return to St Lawrence, should he impress this summer.

High-quality

"Stuart is hoping to play in the Indian Premier League in 2011 and we have had preliminary talks with him, that if things go well this summer, then there may be some possibility of him coming back at some stage next year," he said.

"He is a high-quality player and a high-quality bloke, and also the fact he is available from ball one of the summer because he is not playing in the IPL is a great thing for us."

While Clark, who was scheduled to join the county as their overseas player last summer before being called up to play for Australia, has put pen to paper on a deal, a spinner of international quality is the next player the club hope to tie down for the second half of the summer.

While Farbrace wouldn't be drawn on the identity of the club's overseas target, he did say that he is "something different to what we have got" and that the player is involved in a current international series.

The club are also keen to bolster their bowling ranks with two domestic seamers on Kent's radar, although Farbrace did say they would only sign one of them.

"We have an overseas player in place for the second half – what we are still waiting on is a seamer option," he said. "We are still looking at bringing in one more seamer if we possibly can and we are still talking to the same two people we were before Christmas."

With regulations stating that counties can name two overseas players in this summer's revamped Friends Provident Twenty20, Kent are contemplating the idea of extending Clark's deal to include the competition. That would mean he teams up with the 'mystery' new spinner for the second half of the season, although that is still yet to be decided.

• James Tredwell has been included in a strong England Lions squad for next month's tour of the United Arab Emirates. The spinner, who is on duty with England in South Africa, will be involved in the first half of the trip. After four Twenty20 games against the UAE and Pakistan A, he will transfer to the England squad for the tour of Bangladesh.



ACTION: Paul Farbrace revealed talks have begun with Stuart Clark (above) about a return to St Lawrence

Gate hope inside info will give them edge over Town

FOOTBALL

■ BY STEVE TERVET

MARGATE manager Mark Butler will be up against familiar faces on Saturday as Ashford Town make the trip from Middlesex to Hartsdown Park.

Butler, who left Ashford to replace Terry Yorath at Hartsdown Park in October, has yet to record his first home win as Gate boss and will hope his inside knowledge of Saturday's opponents can help the Blues take all three points in their bid to stay up.

Margate continue to teeter on the brink of the Ryman Premier relegation zone, with their bid for consistency not helped by a long list of postponements which pre-dates the big freeze.

Only two fixtures have been played at Hartsdown since Butler's arrival and the manager knows he must make his experience tell on Saturday.

He said: "The Ashford team which started their last game were all my players – they were either at the club when I joined or I signed them. I've made no secret about the fact I'd like a couple of their players to join us. I would urge the Margate fans to be very vocal on Saturday, to show the Ashford players how good it is to play in front of 500 fans.

"They'll play 4-3-3 which will make it an



Picture: CHICHESTER OBSERVER



Picture: DAVE STEWART

MISSING: Mark Butler (left) will be without captain Lloyd Blackman (right) for Saturday's game against Ashford Town

interesting afternoon. It's not for me to say how they should run their team but it may hinder them, having three out-and-out strikers on the pitch. They will be a handful, for sure, but there will also be space for us to exploit at the back."

Butler's own cause is hampered by the absence of John Keister and Lloyd Blackman through suspension, and although Anthony Joseph should be fit to start up front, Blackman has been in fine scoring form of late and will be missed.

With Charlie Read having returned to

Ebbsfleet United after a loan spell, Butler must decide who to pair Luke Wheatley with in defence as Margate look to keep only their second clean sheet in ten outings.

He said: "We don't seem to be able to get a run of games going and it's becoming boring. I've never known anything like it and with the weather as it has been, we don't even have the facilities to train.

"The hardest thing, with the icy roads, is getting all the lads together to train so it's important they try to do some work on their own or else we'll lose momentum."

FOOTBALL



Picture: GORD KILPATRICK

KEY: Sam Jones hopes to unlock the Dulwich defence

Rams keep training through the freeze

WHILE the big freeze has decimated the Ryman League fixture programme recently, the snow has been good for team spirit at promotion-chasing Ramsgate.

Rams manager Jim Ward has had to improvise training sessions during the cold snap but praised the commitment of his players during the whiteout.

With their last three games all failing to beat the weather, Ramsgate's trip to Dulwich Hamlet on Saturday will be their first away game since a 2-1 win at Burgess Hill Town six weeks ago.

Ward will be hoping his side can pick up where they left off, having won four of their last six on the road, keeping three clean sheets in the process.

Together

He said: "We know them [Dulwich] very well and it's a game we're looking forward to. The squad is really together at the moment – we had 15 at training despite the weather.

"It's just about keeping things ticking over when the weather's like this so we've been mixing it up – training on the beach, on the all-weather surface, wherever we've been able to."

While he has no immediate plans to add to his squad, Ward was keen to leave his options open and said the Rams' form in the next few weeks could be determined by the quality of the surfaces they play on.

He said: "The better the pitches are, the better we'll play, with players like Sam Jones, Warren Schulz and Rhys Lawson going forward. In terms of signing players, I never say never, but I've got a squad of 19 and I don't intend on changing it right now. If players come to me I'll give them the chance to play."

Ramsgate were due to play a fixture at Kent rivals Whitstable Town last night, but the fixture was in doubt due to the heavy snowfall in the area.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE TABLES

(Before last night's games)

RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pt
1 Dartford	20	16	3	1	+41	51
2 Hastings United	24	12	4	8	+8	40
3 Kingstonian	22	11	3	8	+2	36
4 Wealdstone	17	9	6	2	+5	33
5 Tooting & Mitcham	20	9	4	7	+4	31
6 Sutton United	20	9	3	8	+11	30
7 Maidstone United	21	8	5	8	-1	29
8 Horsham	19	8	4	7	+6	28
9 Canvey Island	20	8	4	8	-1	28
10 Ashford Town (Middx)	21	7	7	7	-3	28
11 Boreham Wood	19	8	3	8	+4	27
12 AFC Hornchurch	20	7	6	7	-1	27
13 Harrow Borough	21	7	5	9	-3	26
14 Tonbridge Angels	21	7	5	9	-5	26
15 Aveley	19	7	4	8	+2	25
16 Hendon	18	7	3	8	-1	24
17 Carshalton Athletic	19	6	5	8	-7	23
18 Margate	19	6	4	9	-11	22
19 Cray Wanderers	23	6	4	13	-17	22
20 Bognor Regis Town	21	4	7	10	-11	19
21 Billericay Town	16	4	6	6	-5	18
22 Waltham Abbey	20	4	5	11	-17	17

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

1 Folkestone Invicta	21	15	5	1	+19	50
2 Worthing	22	14	1	7	+17	43
3 Godalming Town	20	12	3	5	+15	39
4 Walton & Hersham	21	11	4	6	+7	37
5 Croydon Athletic	19	10	6	3	+21	36
6 Fleet Town	20	10	3	7	+11	33
7 Ramsgate	20	9	5	6	+7	32
8 Mersham	21	9	5	7	-1	32
9 Chatham Town	22	9	3	10	-6	30
10 Sittingbourne	18	8	4	6	+7	28
11 Burgess Hill Town	19	8	4	7	+2	28
12 Corinthian-Casuals	21	8	3	10	-3	27
13 Whyteleafe	21	8	2	11	+2	26
14 Dulwich Hamlet	20	6	8	6	0	26
15 Leatherhead	18	7	3	8	+4	24
16 Horsham YMCA	22	5	9	8	-4	24
17 Metropolitan Police	20	5	7	8	+3	22
18 Walton Casuals	20	6	4	10	-7	22
19 Chipstead	22	5	5	12	-14	20
20 Whitstable Town	21	5	2	14	-27	17
21 Eastbourne Town	22	3	7	12	-23	16
22 Ashford Town	18	2	5	11	-30	11

FIXTURES

(Saturday): Ryman Premier: Dartford v Margate; Ryman South: Ramsgate v Whyteleafe

Young Orrin swings into action for England in SA

GOLF

RISING golf talent Max Orrin is hoping to continue his good form for England as he competes in a three-nation event in South Africa this week.

The 15-year-old from Birchington is well on the way to emulating heroes Rory McIlroy and Ian Poulter and already plays off scratch.

Orrin is in a six-strong team to take on hosts South Africa and Canada at Zebula Golf Club, near Pretoria, in a three-day event, which began yesterday.

The Chatham House Grammar School pupil has not been overawed on the international stage in previous call-ups for the under-16 side, winning all four of his matches against Ireland last year.

Orrin was delighted to be included in the squad and believes he will have no problems adjusting to the climate.

He said: "It is a terrific honour to play for your country and I am really looking forward to it. I have played for England in the last few months and my record is pretty good.

"I have played in America where it was very warm and I actually preferred it; so I'm hoping to do well in South Africa for my country."

Orrin came to prominence last year, winning the South of England Boys Championship and recording strong finishes in the Kent Youths Championship and MacGregor Trophy. A member at North Foreland Golf Club at Kingsgate, he has



Picture: TOM WARD

HONOUR: Max Orrin is playing for England this week

played for the county up to under-21 level and is hoping to follow his brother David, who recently turned professional.

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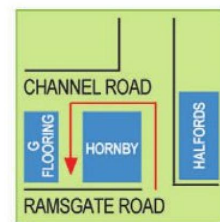
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